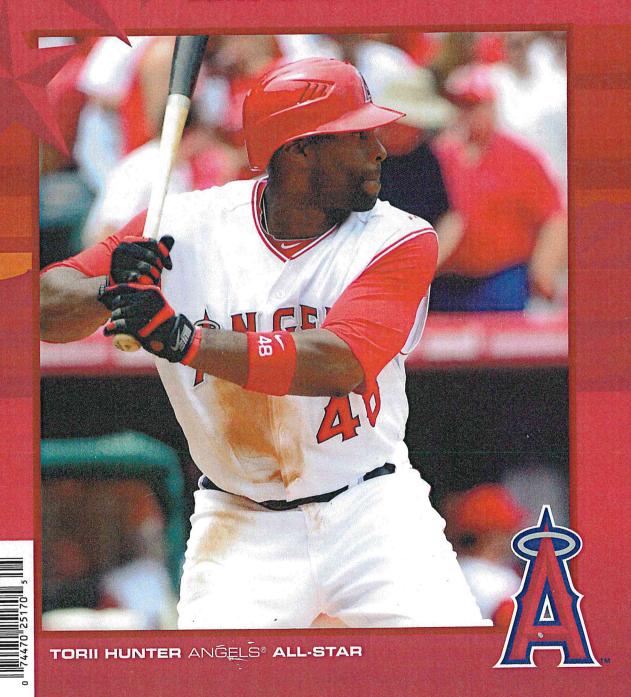


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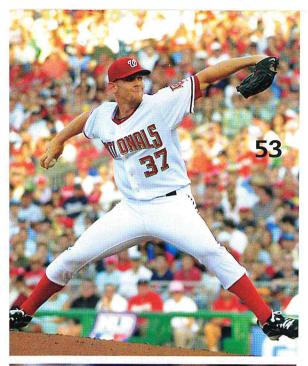
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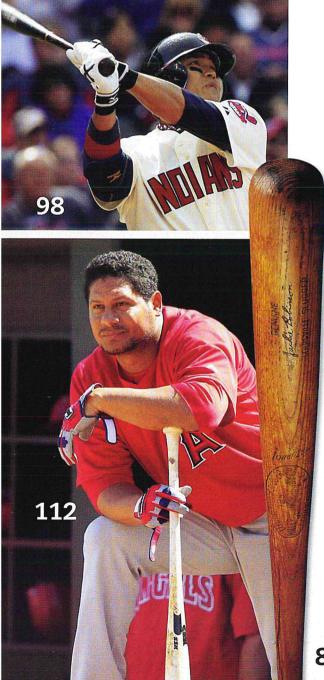
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ALL STAR GAME 2010

Official Program

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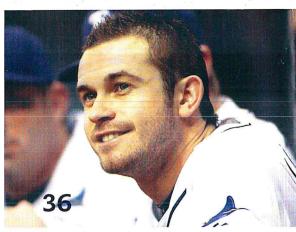
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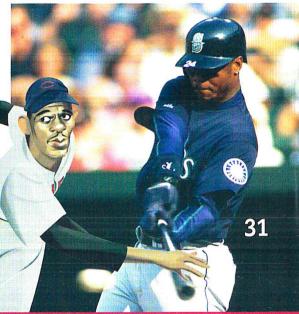
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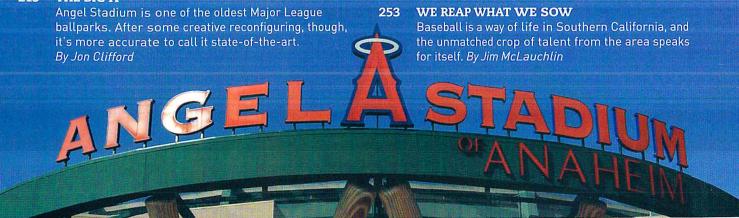
The 2002 Angels changed the complexion of the franchise and won the club's first World Series along the way. *By Mark Whicker*

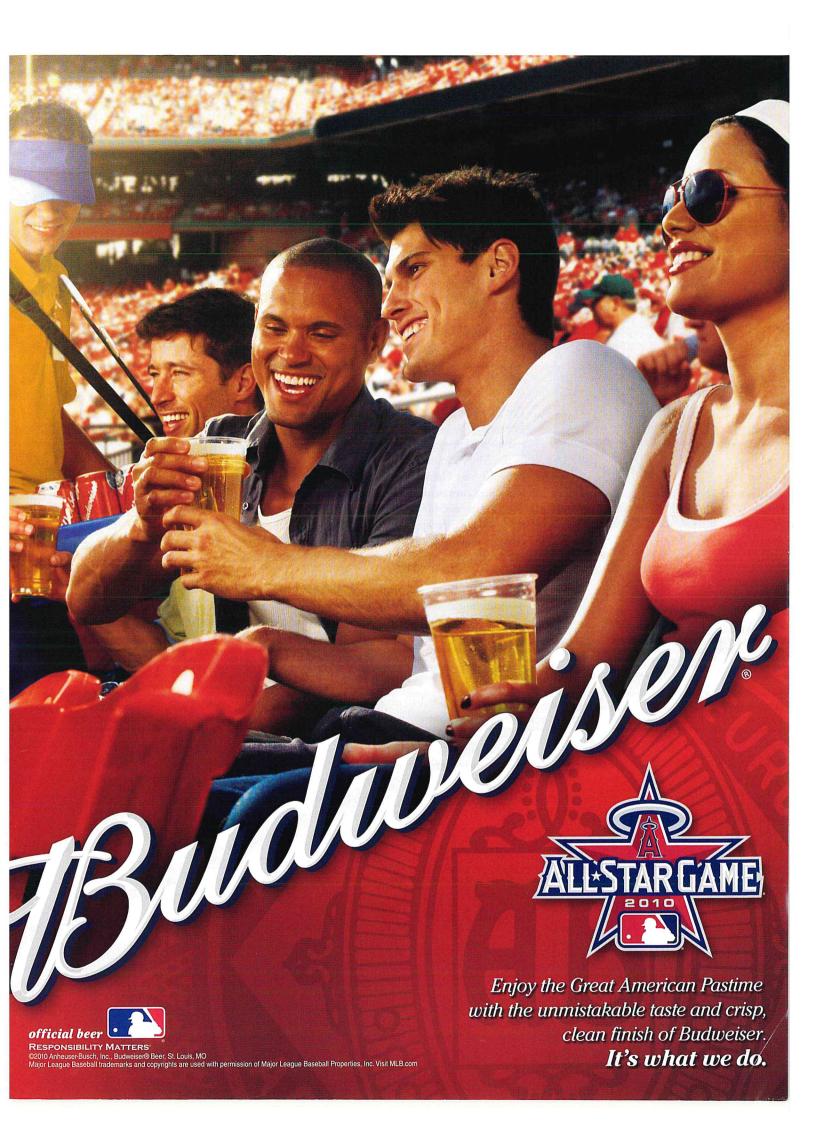
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Angel Stadium has gotten much pub for hosting the All-Star Game, but each fall, it serves a higher purpose. By Rhett Bollinger

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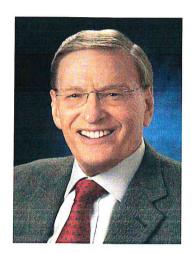
Hideki Matsui has plenty of rituals, but his daily life is far from routine. *By Doug Ward*





Office of the Commissioner MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL





Dear Fans,

On behalf of Major League Baseball, I am delighted to welcome you to Anaheim for the 81st All-Star Game. Angel Stadium is home to some of the sport's best and most loyal home fans, who are most deserving of the opportunity to see the game's greatest stars convene on one field.

The All-Star Game, which has featured legendary Angels like Hall of Famers Rod Carew and Nolan Ryan, is the greatest sporting event of the summer. Under the leadership of Manager Mike Scioscia, a wave of new All-Stars has represented the Angels in the Midsummer Classic during the club's decade-long stretch of excellence. The 2010 All-Star Game will carry on the event's rich tradition in Anaheim. In 1967, the 15-inning contest culminated in a game-winning home run by the National League's Tony Perez, one of the 20 Hall of Fame players who were in the dugouts. In 1989, the sensational Bo Jackson delivered a signature All-Star Game performance, leading off with a magnificent home run — which was followed by a shot from Wade Boggs — and making an incredible running catch in the outfield.

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The All-Star Game is a reflection of Major League Baseball's remarkable popularity today, having expanded into a series of "All-Star Summer" festivities that can be enjoyed by baseball fans and families throughout Southern California. Fans will experience the best of Major League Baseball during 2010 All-Star Game events. I am proud that Major League Baseball uses this extraordinary platform to support numerous charitable endeavors nationally and throughout the Angels' local communities.

Major League Baseball sends its sincere thanks and appreciation to the Angels franchise and the City of Anaheim for their collective efforts toward making the All-Star Game a great success. The 2010 Midsummer Classic will serve as a celebration of the national pastime, and with its deep passion for our game, Anaheim promises to be a host like no other.

Thank you for being a part of the 2010 All-Star Game.

Sincerely,

Allan H. (Bud) Selig

Commissioner of Baseball





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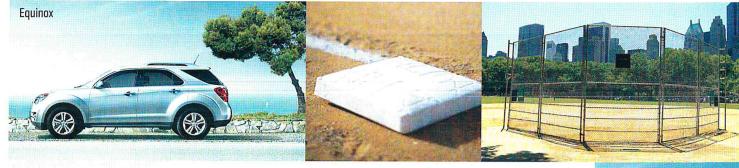
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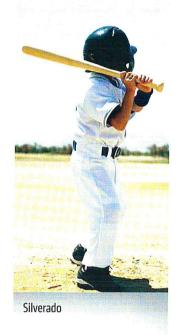




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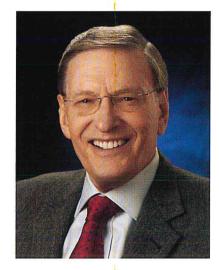




ALLAN H. (BUD) SELIG

COMMISSIONER OF BASEBALL

Selig was named the ninth Commissioner of Baseball on July 9, 1998, by a unanimous vote of the 30 Major League Baseball club owners. Prior to his election as Commissioner, Selig served as Chairman of the Executive Council and was the central figure in MLB's organizational structure dating back to September 1992. Selig implemented many of the game's structural changes, including Interleague Play and the Wild Card. Since

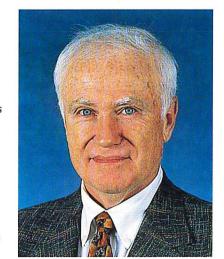


then, he has engineered two historic labor agreements with the MLB Players Association. By the end of the current agreement, baseball will have gone 16 years without a strike or a lockout, the sport's longest such period of uninterrupted play. Under his guidance, MLB achieved record attendance each year from 2004 to 2007.

BOB DuPUY PRESIDENT AND COO

DuPuy was named President and Chief Operating Officer of Major League Baseball on March 15, 2002. He reports directly to Commissioner Selig and is responsible for all phases of Baseball's central offices. He also serves as Chairman of MLB Advanced Media, MLB's industry-wide Internet company. Prior to joining MLB in 1998 as Executive

Vice President, Adminis-



tration, DuPuy was a partner in the law firm Foley & Lardner.

TIMOTHY J. BROSNAN

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, BUSINESS



Brosnan oversees all aspects of MLB's domestic and international business interests, including broadcasting, marketing, licensing and corporate sponsorship. He joined Baseball in 1991; was promoted to Chief Operating Officer of MLB International in 1994; to Senior Vice President,

Domestic and International Properties for MLB in 1998; and to his current position in 2000.

ROB MANFRED

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, LABOR RELATIONS AND HUMAN RESOURCES

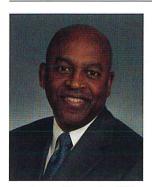


Manfred directs Major League Baseball's strategy on all issues related to collective bargaining with the players, and also oversees the human resources department at MLB. Manfred was previously a partner in the Labor and Employment Law Section of the firm

Morgan, Lewis and Bockius before joining Major League Baseball in October 1998.

JONATHAN MARINER

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, FINANCE

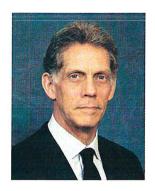


Mariner oversees all operations related to MLB finances, including the Major League Central Fund, financial reporting and the league-wide credit facility. Prior to joining MLB in 2002, Mariner was Executive VP and Chief Operating Officer for Charter Schools USA after

serving as Executive VP and Chief Financial Officer for the Marlins since the team's inception in 1992.

JOHN McHALE JR.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, ADMINISTRATION & CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER: INTERIM EVP. BASEBALL OPERATIONS



McHale oversees all administrative functions of Major League Baseball's central offices and since June 2010 has also served as interim head of all of MLB's baseball operations. McHale joined MLB in 2002 after serving as Chief Operating Officer of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, President of the Detroit Tigers and Executive Vice President for Baseball Operations of the Colorado Rockies.

JIMMIE LEE SOLOMON

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, BASEBALL DEVELOPMENT



Solomon is responsible for the management of Major League Baseball's Urban Youth Academies across the country, Minor League Operations, the Civil Rights Game and many initiatives and special events aimed at baseball development. Solomon joined MLB in 1991 and has served as an Executive Vice President since June 2005.

MLB ADVANCED MEDIA BOB BOWMAN PRESIDENT AND CEO



Bowman has been president and CEO of MLB Advanced Media since its inception in 2000. He and his team manage Major League Baseball's interactive media and Internet rights, principally through MLB.com and the 30 individual club sites. Prior to Baseball, Bowman worked in various posts at ITT Corporation and became its President and COO in 1995.

MLB NETWORK
TONY PETITTI PRESIDENT AND CEO



Petitti was named President and CEO of MLB Network in April 2008 and oversees all aspects of the network, which broadcasts baseball programming 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to approximately 55 million cable and satellite homes. Petitti joined MLB Network after serving as the Executive Vice President and Executive Producer for CBS Sports.



MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

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EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, BUSINESSTimothy J. Brosnan

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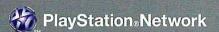








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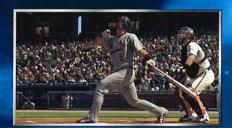




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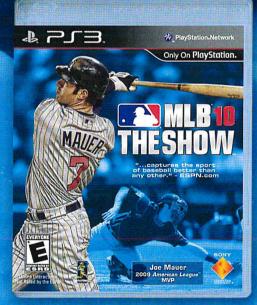




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ON THE AIR

TELEVISION

FOX Sports and Major League Baseball are proud to present baseball's brightest stars, live from Angel Stadium. It is the 12th MLB All-Star Game broadcast by FOX Sports (1997, 1999, 2001–10), and each has been called by play-by-play announcer Joe Buck and analyst Tim McCarver.



McCarver, a two-time NL All-Star with the Cardinals (1966 and '67), is calling the 19th All-Star Game of his career, the most by any broadcaster ever. The pairing of Buck and McCarver for 12 All-Star Games is also a record.

Buck and McCarver are joined by MLB on FOX Insider Ken Rosenthal reporting from the field. MLB on FOX pregame host Chris Rose and MLB on FOX game analyst Eric Karros welcome viewers to Anaheim and set the scene for this special night, and each is assigned to report from one of the dugouts during the game. Rose also handles post-game coverage, including the game's MVP presentation. The 81st All-Star Game is presented in high definition with Dolby 5.1 audio.

RADIO

Jon Sciambi and former Big Leaguer Dave Campbell will call all of the action in Anaheim for ESPN Radio, with Marc Kestecher as the on-site host. John Rooney and Peter Pascarelli will serve as on-field reporters.









INTERNATIONAL

The world feed of the All-Star Game will be produced by MLB International in high and standard definition, and will be broadcast to audiences in 20 languages across 219 countries. Gary Thorne will join Rick Sutcliffe to call the action in English. TV crews from ESPN International (worldwide), Fox Sports en Espanol (Puerto Rico), Fuji TV (Japan), NHK (Japan) and TV Arena Sport (Serbia) will cover the games live, as will the Armed Forces Network (worldwide), Fox Sports (Latin America),





Guangdong TV (China), Rogers Sportsnet (Canada), TDS (Curacao) and RPC (Panama).

ESPN



The Home Run Derby is always a favorite among fans. Bringing viewers live coverage will be familiar faces from ESPN shows like *Baseball Tonight* and *SportsCenter*. ESPN's TV coverage also includes the XM All-Star Futures Game and the Taco Bell Legends and Celebrity Softball Game. Tune in for insightful and entertaining analysis during every All-Star Week event.

MLB NETWORK

In addition to covering the All-Stars at media day, MLB Network will air MLB Tonight live from batting practice during All-Star Week, and will cover the Red Carpet Show. MLB Tonight will also air live after the game. On-air talent includes Bob Costas, Hazel Mae, Peter Gammons and a host of former All-Stars, such as and Barry Larkin and Al Leiter.



RED CARPET SHOW

See your favorite 2010 All-Stars up close on the streets of Anaheim and on MLB Network as part of the sixth annual MLB All-Star Red Carpet Show presented by Chevrolet. The parade will run through Anaheim all the way to Main Street U.S.A. inside Disneyland. As part of MLB's commitment to environmental sustainability, it is working with the Natural Resources

Defense Council (NRDC), implementing ways to reduce the event's environmental footprint. The players will travel on a carpet made from 100 percent recycled fiber and produced by electricity collected by 100 percent renewable wind and solar power. Chevrolet will provide Silverado vehicles with E85 ethanol capability for the parade.



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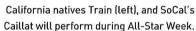


SHOWSTOPPERS

With Hollywood just a short drive away, you can be sure to catch plenty of stars milling about Orange County. But when MLB All-Star Week comes to town, *the* place to be for celebrity sightings will be the area surrounding Angel Stadium.

Headlining parties both on and off the field will be the California-based band Train, which is set to perform on the field before Monday's State Farm Home Run Derby, as well as at MLB's Pre-Game Party before the All-Star Game. Starting with their self-titled debut album in 1998, the group has had much mainstream success, including the single "Drops of Jupiter," which won two Grammy Awards in 2002. The song came off the album of the same name, which was an international hit and went double platinum in the United States and Canada. Before the Derby, they will be singing "Calling All Angels" and their current hit "Hey, Soul Sister,"





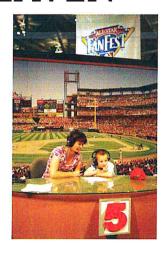


which held top spots on iTunes and the Billboard charts for much of the Spring.

Colbie Caillat — who was born in nearby Newbury, Calif., and grew up in Malibu — will be headlining at the All-Star Gala on Monday night. The 25-year-old Caillat was nominated in December 2009 for Best Pop Vocal Album at the 52nd Grammy Awards and was a member of the group that took home Album of the Year for her background vocals and writing on Taylor Swift's Fearless. An additional partnership, this time with fellow artist Jason Mraz on the song "Lucky," won the 2010 Grammy Award for Best Pop Collaboration with Vocals. Independently, Caillat has had global success in her young career; her first two albums totaled a combined 4 million sales worldwide.

FAN HEAVEN

You don't need a ticket to the game to be close to the action! Fans have the opportunity to get a first-hand experience of Midsummer Classic fun at Major League Baseball All-Star FanFest, a baseball amusement park occupying more than 450,000 square feet of space at the Anaheim Convention Center from July 9–13. People of all



ages will be able to take part in various baseball-themed attractions, including:

- Hometown Heroes: Take a comprehensive look at the history of baseball in Anaheim, the club's roots in the community and its promise for the future.
- The Diamonds: Participate in interactive clinics with current and former Big Leaguers, managers and umps.
- MLB Clubhouse Store: Purchase limited-edition Midsummer Classic souvenirs.

SKILL POSITIONS

Twenty-four national finalists of the Aquafina Major League Baseball Pitch, Hit & Run program will take the field at Angel Stadium right before the All-Star teams on Gatorade All-Star Workout Day. The 12 boys and 12 girls, ages 7–14, will show their stuff and see who can hit the farthest, run the fastest and pitch the best as they vie to take home the trophy as national champion. This year more than 600,000 kids competed in the nationwide program, the official youth skills competition of Major League Baseball. A new nationwide girls softball division was implemented this spring, adding to the popularity of this great program sponsored by Aquafina. For more information on Aquafina Major League Baseball Pitch, Hit & Run, log on to MLB.com/PHR.



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BLAST OFF

For many, it's as exciting as the All-Star Game itself. The State Farm Home Run Derby is a chance to see baseball's best sluggers swing for the fences. Having this year's contest at gorgeous Angel Stadium should make for an unforgettable showcase.

Ken Griffey Jr., who retired this year with 630 career home runs, was a three-time champ and is one of many

greats to captivate fans at a Home Run Derby. Milwaukee Brewers first baseman Prince Fielder faced a daunting task at Busch Stadium in 2009 to win the most recent Derby crown, going up against names like Ryan Howard and hometown favorite Albert Pujols. The Rangers' Nelson Cruz, however, proved the biggest challenge. Fielder and Cruz tied for the most first-round homers (11), with Fielder producing a slight edge in total home runs after two rounds (17-16). In the Finals, Fielder edged the right-handed Cruz, blasting six homers to Cruz's five.





LOOKING SHARP

The 2010 MLB All-Stars will tout specially designed uniforms, officially licensed by Major League Baseball in conjunction with Majestic, when they take the field for the Home Run Derby and batting practice.

The jerseys come in two distinct colors — blue for the National League and red for the American League — both equipped with 100 percent polyester mock mesh body and ventilated stretch mesh arm hole for easy and comfortable movement.

The jerseys are designed to represent this year's host team, the Angels, and feature the recognizable and coveted Angels star and halo graphic above the word "American" or "National."

This jersey isn't just for the All-Stars; snag one for yourself at MLB.com.

MASTER OF THE HOUSE

To promote All-Star Week, MLB turned to an iconic figure and "native" of Anaheim: Mickey Mouse. Since early June, 36 varieties of life-sized MLB-themed Mickey Mouse statues have populated high-profile locations throughout Southern California in celebration of All-Star Week, including Angel Stadium, Anaheim City Hall, Downtown Disney, the Kodak and El Capitan Theatres, L.A. Live and the Hollywood Walk of Fame area. They are part of a new collaboration between MLB and Disney Consumer Products. The 36 statues, commissioned in conjunction with MLB licensee Forever Collectibles, are decorated with bold graphics featuring each of the 30 teams as well as four All-Star designs, an AL design and an NL design. Each statue is 7.5 feet tall and weighs 989 pounds. Continuing an All-Star tradition born in 2008 with the Statue of Liberty figures in New York, and last year with the "Arches on Parade" in St. Louis, miniature versions of each statue are available through MLB.com, DisneyStore.com and other retailers.



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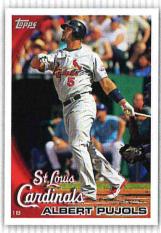














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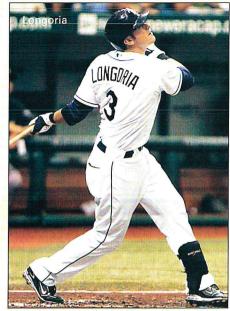








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At the Louisville Slugger Museum in Louisville, Ky., you'll find "The Signature Wall." It features the names and signatures of more than 8,000 ballplayers who have signed bat contracts with Louisville Slugger. But there's still plenty of room for more names to be added. Will yours be next?



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EVERYDAY HEROES

Major League Baseball and PEOPLE magazine announced in April the return of the national "All-Stars Among Us" campaign, which was launched in 2009 and recognizes individuals who serve their communities in extraordinary ways. "All-Stars Among Us" was the centerpiece of a memorable pregame ceremony at the 2009 All-Star Game in St. Louis, featuring a video tribute by all five living U.S. presidents and culminating with President Barack Obama throwing out the ceremonial first pitch. A total of 30 everyday All-Stars, one representing each Major League Baseball club, will be honored throughout 2010 MLB All-Star Week in Anaheim, including during the pregame ceremony.

"Showcasing the inspiring work of everyday 'Heroes Among Us' has been an essential aspect of PEOPLE's editorial mission for the last

35 years," says PEOPLE Managing Editor Larry Hackett. President, Time Inc. Style & Entertainment Group, Paul Caine, adds, "We are excited to continue our partnership with MLB, an organization that shares PEOPLE's commitment to recognizing the selfless work of everyday individuals across the country, and we truly value the impact this campaign had on our 'All-Stars' and their chosen causes."

"The inaugural 'All-Stars Among Us' program last year made a significant impact on everyone involved and helped increase awareness of the meaningful efforts of 30 great humanitarians," says Commissioner of Baseball Allan H. (Bud) Selig. Adds Tim Brosnan, executive vice president of business for Major League Baseball, "MLB is committed to recognizing the importance of giving back to our communities, and our fans have truly embodied the notion of 'Going Beyond' within their neighborhoods."



STANDING UP TOGETHER

As the first organization to "step up to the plate" as a founding partner of Stand Up To Cancer in 2008, Major League Baseball is committed to finding a cure.

"It was a wonderful and unique opportunity to contribute to an extraordinary effort," Commissioner Allan H. (Bud) Selig said about joining SU2C. "I believe that it was a real privilege for MLB, as a social institution, to make an impact. The work of Stand Up To Cancer and their Dream Teams will someday pay huge medical dividends in the worldwide fight against disease."

All-Star Week is an outstanding opportunity to raise awareness and support, as evidenced by the successes of 2009. Those events, which included a charity concert featuring Sheryl Crow, raised more than \$1 million to support the cause.

"This is a moment of great possibility," said Stand Up To Cancer co-founder Laura Ziskin. "Every person can play a role in helping the scientists who are working 24/7 to end this disease. We're so grateful to MLB for giving our 2-year-old movement a huge jumpstart by introducing us to baseball fans all over the world, and we hope everyone will visit standup2cancer.org to learn more."





MAKE A BID FOR B.A.T.

Since 1986, the Baseball Assistance Team (B.A.T.) has awarded more than 2,600 grants totaling more than \$21 million to restore health, pride and dignity to members of the "baseball family" in need of financial,



medical or psychological assistance, including former Major Leaguers, Minor Leaguers, umpires, scouts, coaches, former managers, Negro Leagues players, athletic trainers, front office personnel, women from the professional baseball league and their spouses.

In the spirit of "Going Beyond," the 2010 All-Stars will sign and donate their All-Star Workout Day jerseys to B.A.T., who will auction them off later in the year with the proceeds going to B.A.T. This spring alone, more than 1,100 players committed more than \$1.85 million in donations to B.A.T.

For more information on the 2010 All-Star Workout Day jerseys or to donate to B.A.T., follow B.A.T. on Facebook and Twitter or visit baseballassistanceteam.com.

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A special thanks to Bank of America, the presenting sponsor of MLB All-Star FanFest Friday

LONG DRIVES

In January, Firestone became the Official Tire of Major League Baseball. This agreement formally brought together two iconic American brands. Firestone founder Harvey S. Firestone was a noted baseball enthusiast who helped build Firestone Stadium in Akron, Ohio, in 1925. The park hosted several Major Leaguers over the years and is still in use for youth baseball and softball.

"We are proud to welcome Firestone into the MLB family and look forward to bringing our fans and their customers closer together through exciting and innovative programs," says Tim Brosnan, executive vice president of business for MLB.





GO GREEN Scotts

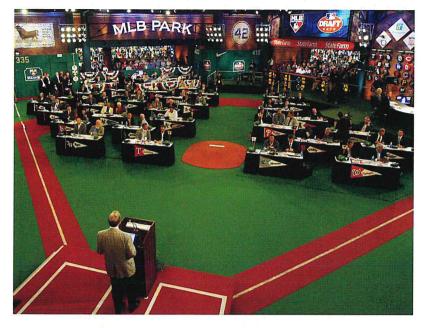






MLB recently announced Scotts as the Official Lawn Care Company of Major League Baseball. The relationship is the first of its kind for MLB and the largest sports relationship for Scotts, the market leader in lawn and garden care. Fans are now able to purchase grass seed blends and fertilizers featured in the iconic ballparks of Major League teams such as the Red Sox, Cubs, Cardinals, Phillies and Reds. Designed by Scotts in consultation with the head groundskeeper at each park, the products use the same Scotts varieties and technology used on the fields.

"The grass on the field is part of the very foundation of baseball, so this deal with Scotts is a natural fit for Major League Baseball," says Tim Brosnan, executive vice president of business for MLB. "With the help of Scotts, our fans can challenge their local clubs for the title of who has the 'best lawn in the neighborhood."

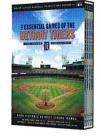


MEMORABLE WEEK

The week of June 8 was an unprecedented success for MLB Network, still in its infancy since launching in 2009. And it's all thanks to youngsters rookie phenom Stephen Strasburg and the amateur players in the MLB First-Year Player Draft, which aired on June 7. On June 8, Strasburg, the 2009 No. 1 overall draft pick, made his debut for the Washington Nationals against the Pittsburgh Pirates. With a presence on the mound that belies his age (21), Strasburg's debut was one of the most anticipated ever, and he didn't disappoint, striking out 14 batters and surrendering just four hits and two runs in seven innings. One day after covering the Draft, MLB Network was in D.C. for the game, and earned its highest rating ever despite going up against other big sports events such as Game 2 of the NBA Finals.

TREASURES

For fans of history and classic games, MLB Productions has produced Reds Memories: The Greatest Moments in Cincinnati Reds History, a 90-minute film on the history of the Reds; The Essential Games of the Detroit Tigers and The Essential Games of the Seattle Mariners, both featuring four great complete games in each club's history; and finally, the Kansas City Royals 1985 World



Series Collector's Edition, including all seven games from the I-40 World Series in 1985. Summertime is also bloopers time, and MLB Productions has created the brand-

spanking new MLB Bloopers: Baseball's Best Blunders DVD. MLB Bloopers features the ultimate collection of the national pastime at its side-splitting funniest. See the finest athletes in the game brought to their knees by gravity, brain locks and killer kittens. It's all here: a bodacious bundle of blunders guaranteed to make you smile all summer long.

These MLB Productions DVDs are available at MLB.com.

GO INSIDE

The day-to-day grind of a 162-game season is like nothing else in sports. On July 20, watch MLB 2010: Six Games, Six Days presented by Gatorade on ESPN, as MLB Productions goes behind the scenes with the Brewers for a six-game homestand. The special visits "players only" areas like the weight room, bullpen, scouting meetings and clubhouse to showcase the work ethic and training necessary to be a Big Leaguer. And they'll mic up players during each contest to gain unique access into Big League competition.

MLB Productions will draw on the experiences of All-Stars like Ryan Braun and Prince Fielder, and future Hall of Famers like Trevor Hoffman to demonstrate the importance of preparation and recovery. In a week's time with the Brewers, MLB Productions will look at the unique framework that allows the athletes to perform at the highest level, and strive to be world champions.

GLOBAL GRADUATES

Baseball has never been more popular globally than it is now, thanks in part to MLB's efforts to teach the game abroad, including setting up international academies.

More than 200 athletes who have attended the academies in Australia and Italy have signed pro contracts. Several are making noise for clubs now:

Alex Liddi (Italy): In 2005, Seattle's Liddi was named California League (High-A) MVP.

Gift Ngoepe (South Africa): The Pirates' Ngoepe became the first African-born player to have a Major League at-bat when he played in two Spring Training games in 2010.

Luke Hughes (Australia): Now a Twin, Hughes went deep in his first Big League at-bat.

Max Kepler (Germany): Signed out of the 2008 MLBI Europe Academy, Kepler is in his first professional season.

Hughes played for Australia in the 2009 World Baseball Classic.





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THE FUTURE

During 2010 MLB All-Star Week in Anaheim, Major League Baseball is hosting the second annual Jr. RBI Classic, a friendly 40-game tournament consisting of eight baseball and four softball teams comprised of youth ages 11–12. In 2009, MLB launched Jr. RBI as an expansion of the Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities (RBI) Program presented by KPMG.

In addition to the games, the youngsters will be participating in MLB FanFest Legends clinics and they will receive Midsummer Classic apparel and uniforms from Majestic, Nike and Outdoor Cap and use equipment donated by Franklin, Rawlings and Wilson. The players will also attend MLB All-Star Week events, including the XM All-Star Futures Game, Taco Bell All-Star Legends and Celebrity Softball Game and the State Farm Home Run Derby.

TEACHING MOMENTS

In June 2010 MLB and the Atlanta Braves announced Atlanta as the home of the 2011 and 2012 Civil Rights Game Weekends. The Civil Rights Game Weekend, an annual series of events designed to pay tribute to all of those who fought on and off the field for equal rights, was launched in Memphis in 2007.

Fans around the country have come to witness and be in the presence of some of the country's most iconic figures. The weekends have featured individuals such as Hank Aaron, Muhammad Ali, Bill Cosby and Spike Lee being honored with MLB Beacon Awards; keynote speeches from Julian Bond, former President Bill Clinton and former U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young; performances by Grammy winners Bebe Winans and Roberta Flack; and first-pitch ceremonies including Hall of Famers Frank Robinson, Tony Perez and Ernie Banks.

MLB'S BIG BOOK

From its humble origins in the mid-19th century to its present-day incarnation as a worldwide force, baseball has a dramatic and colorful history. *The Official Major League Baseball Opus* tells this epic story on a scale unmatched in the history of illustrated publishing. Produced in association with the publishing division of Major League Baseball Properties, the latest

title in the Opus Collection is the definitive tome on the sport and it's filled with historic photos never before seen in such a large and stunning format.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Measuring 20 inches square and weighing in at around 75 pounds with 790 pages, *The Official Major League Baseball Opus* Marquee Edition, with a strictly limited print run of 1,000, is a truly monumental publication. It features approximately 1,000 photographs, including many hidden jewels from MLB's archives, accompanied by 110,000 words comprising classic excerpts from the memoirs of notable players and from the most classic works of literature the sport has ever seen. *The Official Major League Baseball Opus* also includes specially commissioned, exclusive features by industry-leading writers such as Roger Kahn, Robert Creamer, Steve Wulf, Tim Kurkjian and Jayson Stark.

Complementing the chronological narrative of the *Opus* are interludes exploring baseball themes such as Spring Training, record streaks, ballparks, the World Series, pennant races and, of course, the All-Star Game. Dynamic photo essays showcasing the work of three of the finest sports photographers

of all time — Charles Conlon, Ozzie Sweet and Walter Iooss Jr. — add to the visual feast.

The Official Major League Baseball Opus Classic Edition delivers selected content from the Marquee Edition and the same level of editorial, photographic and artistic quality but at nearly half the size and a more accessible price point. Both versions come packaged in a stunning clamshell case.

The Official Major League Baseball Opus is the ultimate publication for fans, a treasure and investment rolled into one, a timeless gem to be enjoyed for generations to come.

Featuring never-before seen photos and much more, the *MLB*Opus is a must-have for collectors.







REMEMBERING ERNIE

Ernie Harwell wasn't just the voice of the Tigers, he was also a good friend. BY TOM GAGE

BASEBALL LOST A TRUE ALL-STAR THIS YEAR. NOT A HOME RUN hitter or a strike-throwing pitcher, or even a player at all, but an announcer. A humble man of the microphone who touched so many. Who helped so many. Who will be remembered by so many.

Ernie Harwell died on May 4 at the age of 92. The longtime voice of the Detroit Tigers, he had been retired from daily broadcasting for the last seven seasons, but had never retired from being

a friend. That's really what he was: baseball's friend. If you met him, you liked him. More than that, you had a new best friend.

Ernie was a native of Georgia and had a background of broadcasting in New York and Baltimore, but it was in Michigan where he worked and lived the last half-century of his life — and where his voice became an indispensable part of Tigers fans' daily lives.

Mow the lawn. Listen to Ernie.

Wash the car: Listen to Ernie.

Turn out the light. Just two more outs ...

He was so much more than a welcome voice, though. He was every bit as kind as his gentle drawl made him sound. It's the reason flowers are still laid at the foot of his statue at Comerica Park whenever there are Tigers home games. It was also the reason that when he lay in state, 11,000 fans filed past. Every one of them had a memory of how Ernie affected their lives — whether

he visited a loved one in the hospital, whether he said he would pray for them and did, whether he made them feel that all was right just by hearing his voice. One ovarian cancer survivor said the sound of his voice and his humble humor helped to pull her through the darkest days.

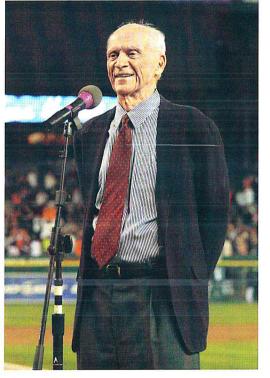
One young fan found out where Harwell lived, knocked on his door for an autograph, and was invited in for a chat and a

> snack. Ernie was never like the strikeout victim he so aptly described — the one "who stood by the side of the road and watched the world go by." As it went by, he did more than watch the world. He made it better.

> "There was a time," a fan once wrote, "that I thought he knew every person in Michigan." And they knew him in return. "His life is one to celebrate," says Manager Jim Leyland. "It was everything good."

Ernie liked to tell the story of how he was traded from his job in Atlanta to Brooklyn for catcher Cliff Dapper — the only broadcaster ever traded for a player. It got him started in the Majors and was one of the best deals ever. Ernie Harwell stayed in the Big Leagues for 55 years, becoming the All-Star whose memory we celebrate today. •

Tom Gage is the Detroit Tigers beat writer for the Detroit News.





TOO SOON

Jose Lima's animated personality and enthusiasm for baseball made him a fan favorite wherever he went. An avid singer and dancer, Lima sang the national anthem and "God Bless America" at a 2004 home game while playing with the Dodgers.

"Lima Time" ended well before its time. The former All-Star died of a heart attack at age 37 this past May. The fiery right-hander's best season of his 13-year career came with the Houston Astros in 1999, when he went 21-5 with a 3.58 ERA, for a club that won the NL West. But fans will never forget his enthusiastic — and often outrageous — attitude. "He just lit up our clubhouse with his personality, which was his greatest asset," says Astros Owner Drayton McLane. "Jose was not shortchanged in life in any way. He lived life to the fullest every day." —Harry Raymond

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SOAKING IT IN

MLB NETWORK

From MLB Network's studios, three analysts discuss their favorite memories from All-Star Week.

THE ALL-STAR GAME CAN MEAN MANY THINGS TO MANY PEOPLE: a dream come true to a rookie; a thank you for decades of greatness to a veteran; a fantasyland to a kid in the stands. Since the inaugural contest in 1933, the All-Star Game experience has evolved along with the game itself. MLB Network analysts John Hart, Barry Larkin and Al Leiter sat down to discuss the often distinctive, but always larger-than-life experience of the Midsummer Classic.

Barry Larkin: Even as a young player, I appreciated it. My first All-Star Game was in Cincinnati, my hometown, so that was pretty special. A lot of guys complained about signing balls, travel, the lack of rest, not being able to have those days off. But for me it was a chance to hobnob with all the other great players in the league.

With some of the guys, you sit there and think, "I hated him when he was pitching." But when you're on the same team, all of a sudden it's like, "He's a good dude. I can still hate him, but he's a good dude." The opportunity to meet those guys in a non-hostile environment, where you can be teammates, is great.

Big Unit, when I didn't know him, when I wasn't on the same All-Star team as him, it was like, "Oh my gosh, *this* guy." And then I met him, and found out he was a nice guy.

Getting a chance to play with Ozzie Smith, one of my childhood idols. Getting a chance to talk to Cal Ripken. And then you get the presidents and everybody else that wants to be part of it.

Al Leiter: I was only there twice and I cherished every minute of it, because I wasn't a 12- or 15-timer like you, Barry. Every part of it is special — you're going to Anaheim for All-Star *Week*. I think that when you're younger you don't just take it

in and really look at every nuance. As you get further along in your career, you probably appreciate it more. I know I did.

AL and NL teams line up before the 2009 All-Star Game. **BL:** Sometimes it's a fine line, especially later in your career when you're nursing an injury. You're like, "I might not get another opportunity, but I certainly don't want this thing to flare up and put me on the shelf for the second half." I was in that situation a couple of times. I was nursing a torn Achilles' during the '97 All-Star Game, but I played. Soon after, I actually ruptured the Achilles'.

John Hart: I think that Major League Baseball makes the whole week an event — it's becoming cooler and cooler. This is our time to hobnob with whoever wants to be around the best players.

I always went to the All-Star Games; I was excited for my players. It's an honor to have those guys there. As a GM you want to get as many of your guys in as you can; it means you've got good players.

BL: I had a chance to play in the Olympics in Los Angeles and I assume the All-Star Futures Game would be the same way. The Minor Leagues, there's no glamour to it at all. Once you get to Triple-A, maybe you start taking a commercial flight, but other than that you're on the bus.

Playing in the Futures Game, I would equate it to playing in the Olympics — just a one-time opportunity, you're working your tail off and you know where you want to be, playing against the best and with the best in all of the league. That's where you want to be. It's a big deal.

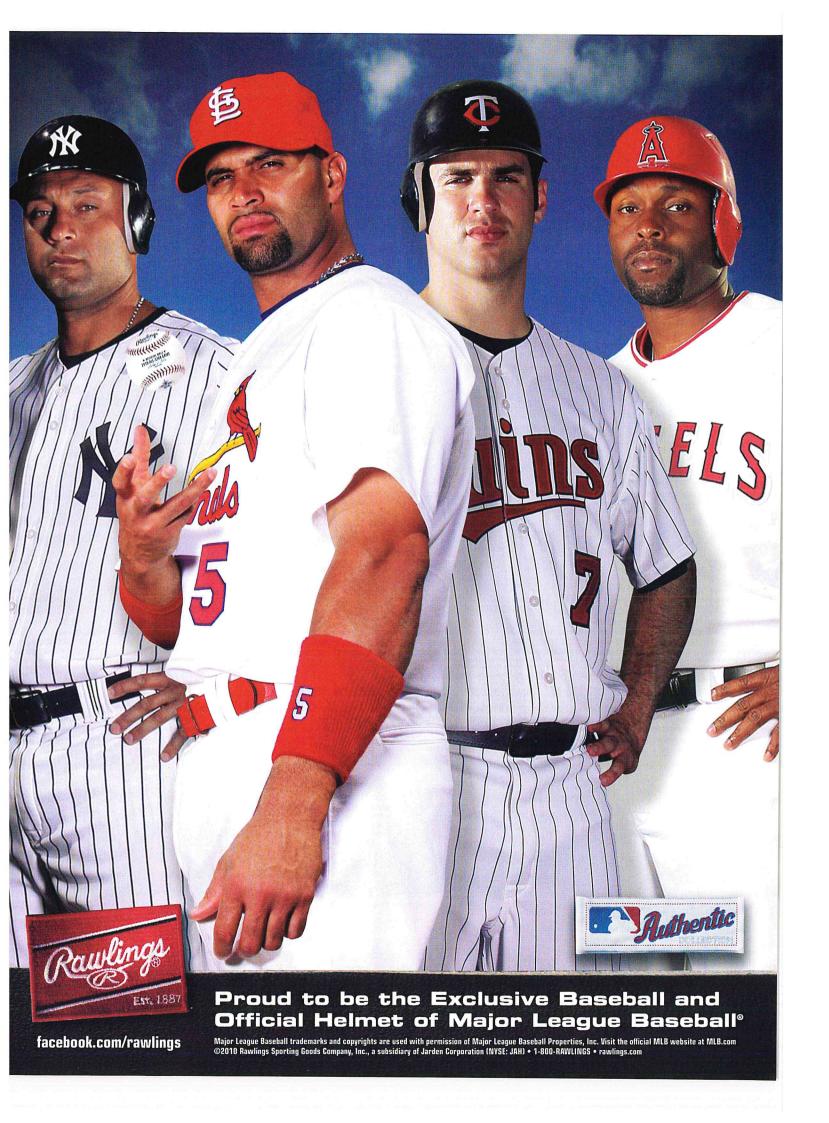
AL: I think it's cool that they introduced it and it could only be something to grow on.

JH: I keep the perspective that all of these guys at one time were little boys playing in their backyards with their dads. Whether it's one time or perennial, and at whatever level, becoming an All-Star is very special. ◆





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THE NATURAL

Ken Griffey Jr. was the best player of his generation and among the greatest of all time. BY TIM KURKJIAN

SOON AFTER SIGNING HIS FIRST PRO CONTRACT. KEN Griffey Jr. took batting practice at the Kingdome with his future Mariners teammates watching, normally a daunting situation for an 18-year-old. "He got in the cage, and he was kind of carrying on a conversation with the media while he was hitting," says Scott Bradley, then a catcher for the Mariners. "The first 25 swings, he just hit line drives to left field. He didn't over-swing one time. Then he hit balls up the middle. Then he took a break, came back loose, and started hitting balls into the seats. I looked at Harold Reynolds and Alvin Davis and said, 'It looks like he belongs."

Griffey always looked like he belonged — in high school, during which he says he never struck out, in his first year of pro ball, and in his first Spring Training on a Big League roster. "When he came to camp in 1989, he had no chance to make the team," Bradley says. "But he got a lot of at-bats early that spring because a lot of veterans don't like to play much early on. After 20 games, he wasn't just the best player on our team, he was the best player in the league. The Mariners basically said, 'We don't want this to happen, we don't want to rush him, we don't want him to make the team.' So they started running him out there against every elite pitcher, against all the nastiest left-handers they could find in hopes that he would stop hitting, and they could send him out. It never happened."

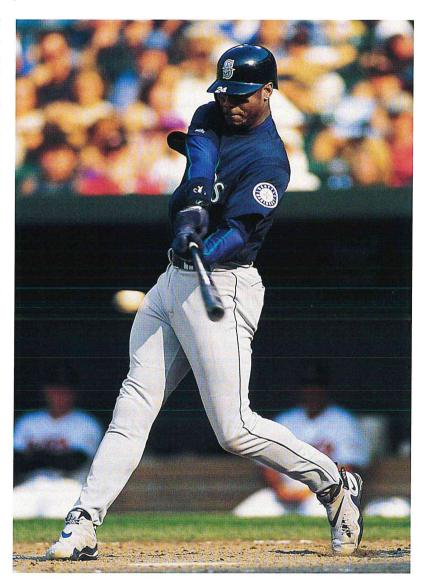
Griffey made the club as a 19-year-old, the youngest player on an Opening Day roster that season. In his first at-bat at the Seattle Kingdome, he hit a home run on the first pitch he saw from the White Sox's Eric King. The rest was history. Possibly the most natural baseball player there has ever been, Griffey was as good as anyone in the game for 10 years.

"He had a perfect swing," says ex-Major League player and manager Bobby Valentine. "Perfect."

"He's the best player that I ever played against," says Hall of Famer Cal Ripken Jr.

Griffey was perhaps the fifth-best center fielder ever, behind only Willie Mays, Ty Cobb, Joe DiMaggio and Mickey Mantle. He made the All-Century Team before he turned 30. He was voted Player of the Decade for the 1990s. He hit 630 homers, fifth-most ever. He hit 40 homers seven times, and 50 twice — back-toback in 1997 and '98, totalling 112 combined. In 1993, Griffey tied the Big League mark with a homer in eight consecutive games.

Griffey also was a brilliant defensive player, one of the most acrobatic center fielders of all time. He won 10 Gold Gloves; Mays, with 12, is the only center fielder with more, and Mays is the only



member of the 500-home run club with more Gold Gloves. In 1997, Griffey joined Mays as the only players to hit 50 home runs in a Gold Glove season.

Injuries kept Griffey from hitting 700 homers, if not 800. But what might have been is not important or appropriate now. We must remember Griffey as a wondrous athlete that streaked through the outfield, climbed an outfield wall to make a catch that only Mays could make, then the next inning hit a ball to places that very few players could ever reach. That will be our lasting image, as well as that perfect swing, and a smile that could light up a ballpark. •

Tim Kurkjian is a baseball analyst for ESPN.

ANGELS AT WORK

In the community and on the field, the Angels Baseball brand resonates, BY GEOFF BILAU

ARTE MORENO CEMENTED HIS STATUS AS A BIG SPENDER DURING his first hot stove season as owner of the Angels, committing \$145 million to four free agents - outfielders Vladimir Guerrero and Jose Guillen, and pitchers Bartolo Colon and Kelvim Escobar in late 2003. That same winter, Moreno opened up his wallet to more than just ballplayers, though. He and his wife Carole started up the Angels Baseball Foundation, a benefactor of community outreach programs and non-profit organizations operating in the ever-growing shadow of the "Big A."

"Arte and Carole immediately committed \$1 million to launch the foundation," says Mark Merhab, chairman of the foundation since its inception. "From there, the marching orders were 'Raise more money, help more kids." The foundation has since distributed grants totaling nearly \$2.5 million. Among its notable beneficiaries are the Boys & Girls Clubs of Orange County, the Angels RBI Program, Orangewood Children's Foundation, Healthy Smiles for Kids Orange County, Children's Bureau of Orange County, Anaheim Community Foundation and the YMCA. Merhab estimates that the foundation and Angels Community Relations have touched more than 3,000 organizations, answering education, arts/sciences, sports and community needs — from monetary donations to distributing toothbrushes to children.

"Arte believes we need to help right here in our backyard," Merhab says. "We came up with a donut approach, starting with a two-mile circle around Angel Stadium, then another two miles, then another."

The All-Star Complex will be a legacy of the Midsummer Classic.

The charitable "Going Beyond" theme of 2010 Major League Baseball All-Star Week will infuse roughly \$2 million more into the Angels Baseball Foundation's coffers, significant portions of which are already funding the construction of the Angels All-Star Complex at Anaheim's Pioneer Park. Two diamonds (one renovated, one brand new) are already providing playing fields for underserved and special needs youth in Orange County — "All-Star Field No. 1" for local Little Leagues and the Angels RBI program, and "All-Star Field No. 2" for use by Miracle Leagues, Challenger Leagues and other special needs children.

The Miracle League field, the first of its kind in Orange County, employs a completely level rubberized surface to accommodate wheelchairs and help prevent injuries to children with physical limitations. "Thousands of children and adults visit this park each year and with the renovation of the existing field, the construction of the Miracle Field and the City's planned upgrades, Pioneer Park will be an even greater community asset," Anaheim Mayor Curt Pringle said at the groundbreaking.

Through the All-Star Complex and similar projects funded by the Angels Baseball Foundation, the Morenos hope to ensure that the legacy of the 2010 All-Star Game lives on. "They take on a sincere responsibility to themselves and their community to give back," Merhab says. "They want to get their hands dirty, and get involved. They take the time to see how we're growing it, how we can better serve these kids. They don't want the easy way out." •

Geoff Bilau is a Southern California-based newspaper journalist.





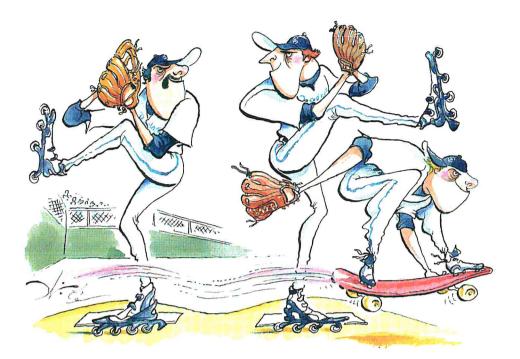
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PARTY CITY

In San Diego's bullpen, a kid can be a kid. BY JON SCHWARTZ

"WE HAVE AN AWESOME TIME DOWN THERE."

So says Padres reliever Mike Adams about his daily fiesta in a Big League bullpen. Sure, there's plenty at stake, and few positions are more conditioned to pressure situations than late-inning relievers, but you wouldn't know it by watching the guys getting warm in the Petco Park 'pen. It seems that every time the TV cameras catch a San Diego reliever he's doing one of two things: striking out a hitter in a key spot or pulling a practical joke.

Entering play on June 8, the Padres' bullpen led baseball with a 2.70 ERA, 204 strikeouts, a .207 batting average against, a .593 OPS against and a remarkable 9.66 strikeouts per nine innings. If you ask Luke Gregerson, who through June 12 had gone 103 batters without issuing a walk, that's no coincidence; it's just boys being boys. "We all pick on each other and it's all in good fun," he says. "Just keeping things loose. But once it's time to work, everyone kind of scatters off, stretches out, gets mentally and physically ready."

It's like a Little League team. Guys get on Sean Gallagher over his love of cheesesteaks. They pick on Adams for his obsession with shoes: "He's got different cleats for road, home, Sundays when we wear camo at home, throwbacks — he always has a new, different pair," Gregerson says. And they poke fun at Gregerson's preferred mode of transportation to the ballpark — a skateboard.

The 26-year-old reliever lives just a few blocks from Petco Park, and finds that the three-minute skateboard ride is a lot quicker than getting into his car. So he can be found before every home game rolling into the clubhouse with his longboard. "Luke should be from Southern California — I don't know how he's from Chicago," says closer Heath Bell, who used to rollerblade to the field when he was in Mets Spring Training camp. "He rides his skateboard every day. It's a nice little ride. Why waste gasoline and ruin the ozone if you can just walk or take a skateboard?"

All in all, the Padres' bullpen seems like the place to be during the San Diego summer. "It's a semi-party down there," Adams says. And as long as the team is winning and the relievers are shutting the door, who's going to tell them to go home? •

RBI IN FULL FORCE

This summer, the Reviving
Baseball in Inner Cities tournament began on June 25 in Puerto
Rico and continues through July.
After the regional tournaments
have been completed, the Florida
Marlins RBI will host the RBI
World Series beginning on Aug. 3
and running through Aug. 14. RBI
baseball will play its championship round at the Roger Dean
Stadium in Jupiter, Fla., while
softball will compete at the Lake
Catherine Sports Complex in
nearby Palm Beach Gardens.

In 2009, the Los Angeles Urban Youth Academy team from RBI's birthplace defeated the Detroit squad, 9-3, in the championship game of the Senior Division. The spirit of RBI was apparent in Los Angeles's Pascual Garcia, who told MLB.com after the game, which was played at the Marlins' Sun Life Stadium, "Ever since you're small, you dream of being in a Major League stadium, and it feels wonderful to win it." Helping to make dreams come true is, of course, what RBI is all about.

The L.A. Urban Youth Academy also took home the Junior Division title, defeating Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 10-3, in the finals. And in softball, the Big Island RBI team from Hawaii took home the championship trophy after defeating Cleveland RBI, 3-0. —Jake Schwartzstein

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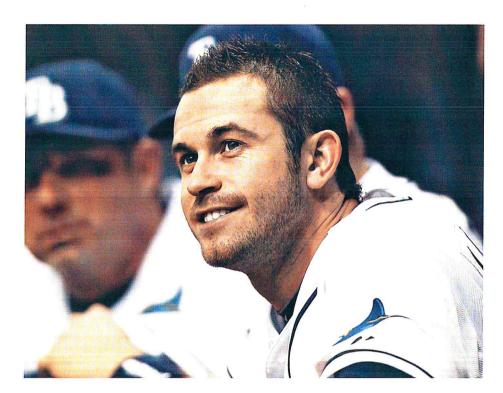


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TOP OF THE ORDER * PROFILE



TRIP OF A LIFETIME

For 24-year-old superstar Evan Longoria, playing in an All-Star Game in his native SoCal would be a dream. BY ADAM BERRY

WHEN HE WAS YOUNGER, EVAN LONGORIA WOULD DRIVE DOWN Orange Freeway, pass by Angel Stadium of Anaheim and tell himself that someday he would get a chance to play on that field.

It seemed like a dream that might never come true. The Downey, Calif., native didn't receive any scholarship offers to play college baseball right out of high school and landed with Rio Hondo Junior College before eventually getting a scholarship to Long Beach State as a sophomore, when his career took off.

"From there," Longoria says, "I kind of just got a little bit better as the years went on. I caught a couple of good breaks. The program, the coaching staff — everything was unbelievable there. That was where I had most of my success."

Three years later, that same once-unheralded player became the top position player taken in the 2006 MLB Draft. Tampa Bay executives breathed a huge sigh of relief when they found out at 2 a.m. on the eve of the draft that the infielder would be available with the third pick. "Trust me, we were high-fiving like crazy when we knew we were going to get Evan," Rays Scouting Director R.J. Harrison says. "That was the guy we wanted."

Longoria grew up an Angels fan while playing baseball in Southern California, including all four years at St. John Bosco High School in Bellflower. He enjoys every trip back home — but returning for an All-Star Game would mean a little extra.

"You're not always going to have the season you want to have, but this year in particular, I was like, 'Man, I've got to really try to make that All-Star team to go back home and play in Anaheim," Longoria says. "I'm looking forward to hopefully being there. I'm sure I'll have a ton of ticket requests, but it'll be fun."

The third baseman has had plenty of memorable experiences in his short career. Take his first All-Star Game, for example; Longoria told locker-mate Manny Ramirez that he was trying to enjoy the experience because he didn't know if he would ever play in another Midsummer Classic. Ramirez's response? "If you think like that, you'll never be back."

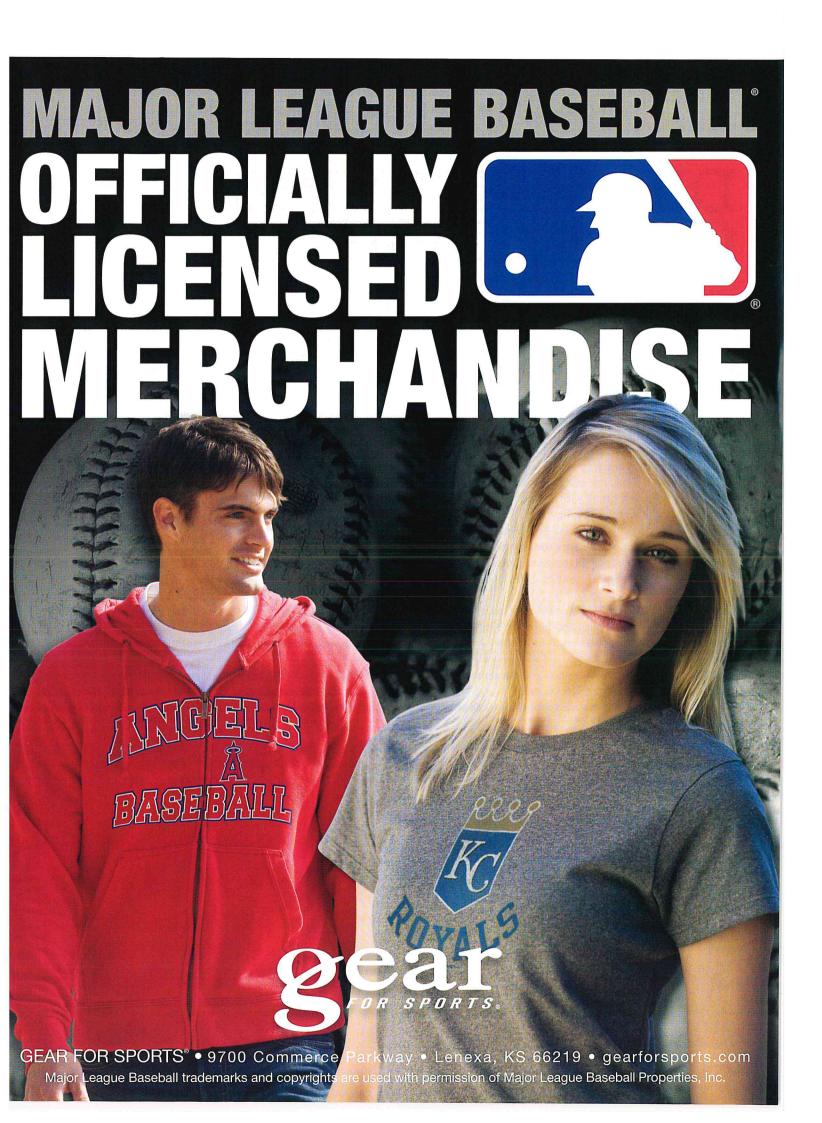
Another fond memory from Longoria's time in the Majors is his first trip to Angel Stadium in 2008, when he took a cab alone to the field early to soak in the atmosphere.

"I went out and looked, stood in the batter's box, walked down the lines," Longoria says. "It was kind of surreal at that point."

Longoria brings the "SoCal attitude" to the Rays in every aspect, as the 24-year-old's laid-back demeanor masks his exhaustive preparation and incredible talent. "He always looks so relaxed," says Rockies shortstop Troy Tulowitzki, Longoria's roommate at Long Beach State. "He almost looks bored up there when he's hitting. It almost looks like he's lazy, but you know he's into the game."

Now Longoria is using his Southern California upbringing, attitude and playing career to help turn his Major League dream into an All-Star reality. And for him, it's a dream come true. ◆

Adam Berry is a writer for MLB.com.



DIFFERENT KIND OF SPOTLIGHT

Celebrities of all types are used to big stages, but even they are awed by the Midsummer Classic experience.

AT ANY ONE OF MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL'S JEWEL EVENTS, you're bound to find TV and movie stars dotted in among the huge crowds. And bringing the Midsummer Classic to Southern California, in the shadow of Hollywood, means that there will be star power aplenty at Angel Stadium all weekend.

Despite the glamour of the 81st All-Star Game, no event will put baseball's most famous fans front and center more than the Taco Bell Legends & Celebrity Softball Game, celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.

Each summer, the game brings together Hall of Famers like Ernie Banks and Ozzie Smith with famous faces like Alyssa Milano and Jon Hamm. Fans of the Senior Circuit can take comfort from the fact that, as opposed to recent All-Star Games, at least the *softball* team representing the NL has won the last two meetings.

Whether or not they play in the game, one thing is certain: No matter how famous, they all love talking about baseball.

BILLY BOB THORNTON (actor/musician): "I played in the ones in Detroit and St. Louis, and I got two singles off of Jennie Finch. I was pretty proud of that. And I turned a double play on Ozzie Smith. I'm a Cardinals fan, so I apologized to him. The fact of the matter is that I operate in the music and movie world, and those guys are my peers, so if I meet some-

body like that it's no big deal. But around baseball players, it's like I'm a little kid."

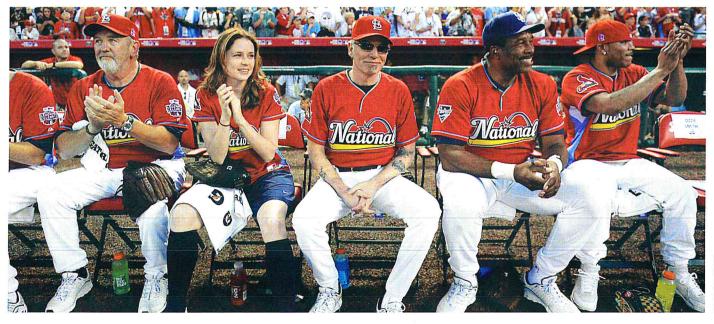
Legends and celebs enjoy the '09 event.

BOBBY KNIGHT (basketball coach): "I haven't played first base since high school. I didn't want to be fielding ground balls, so I told them I'd play first or outfield. I walked all the way out from our locker room with Ernie Banks. It doesn't get any better than that."

PAUL RUDD (actor): "I was at the 2008 Home Run Derby with a few friends, and I picked Josh Hamilton to win. So I think I have this thing wrapped up. And in the finals I lose to my friend, who picked Justin Morneau. It's gotta be cumulative. I like Morneau, but Hamilton got more notoriety as a result. He was like Clay Aiken, whereas Morneau was more Ruben Studdard. Isn't Aiken selling the records? Basically what I'm trying to say is, I want to hear Josh Hamilton sing 'Bridge Over Troubled Water' with a choir."

CHUCK TODD (NBC News): "The best moment I've had on this job was when I went with President Obama and the press corps to the All-Star Game in St. Louis. I had never been to an All-Star Game. The best part was that Willie Mays flew with Obama to the game on Air Force One. Mays came back to the press cabin, and we were like kids, getting his autograph."

CARL EDWARDS (NASCAR driver): "I was nervous that I was going to go out and embarrass myself. We went to batting practice and there were about 500 people — that was wild. I didn't grow up playing baseball so I have zero skills. It's just swing and hope." ◆



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WEIGHTLESS REGIMEN

One doctor has some MLB stars giving up the barbells — and performing better than ever. BY TROY E. RENCK

DR. MARCUS ELLIOTT DOESN'T BOTHER WITH SUBTLETIES. He thinks outside the batter's box, and that wasn't going to change when he started dealing with baseball coaches.

Hired by the Seattle Mariners to marry science with baseball training, the Harvard-educated physician who runs Peak Performance Project out of Santa Barbara, Calif., sat down with the team's coaches last February and offered a striking opinion.

"I led off by telling them, 'A lot of things you do in baseball make no sense in my world," Elliott says. "I realized I would make some enemies when I said that, but I didn't want to do this if we weren't going to have a significant impact."

Elliott, now the Mariners' director of sports science, utilizes cutting-edge training techniques to help athletes better understand how their bodies work. His goal is to foster better results by focusing less on weights and more on the physical movements specific to the sport. In baseball, Elliott concentrates on building the athlete's rotational power and angular velocity in his hips, swing path and the release of the ball.

His clients include Minnesota's Delmon Young, who dropped about 25 pounds prior to this season, Milwaukee Brewers slugger Ryan Braun and Tigers rookie sensation Brennan Boesch.

"The first time I worked out with Marcus in 2005, I couldn't move for four days," says Rockies outfielder Ryan Spilborghs, among the first baseball players, along with Virgil Vasquez, to work with Elliott. "He treats every guy differently. It is sport specific. But even if there are two outfielders training together, our

workouts could be different. The tests conducted on our bodies might show I need more horizontal drive than another player might."

After having conversations with a handful of base-ball clubs, Elliott agreed to work for the Mariners on a three-year contract because they were willing to let him put a "full-court press on the Minor League system." By eliminating traditional strength training, Seattle Mariners General Manager Jack Zduriencik believed Elliott could increase the team's overall performance while simultaneously decreasing

the injuries that can destroy contending teams. Elliott has a successful track record working with the Utah Jazz and multiple Olympic athletes.

For Elliott, the goal with the Minor Leaguers is simple — helping substantially more of them reach the Big Leagues.

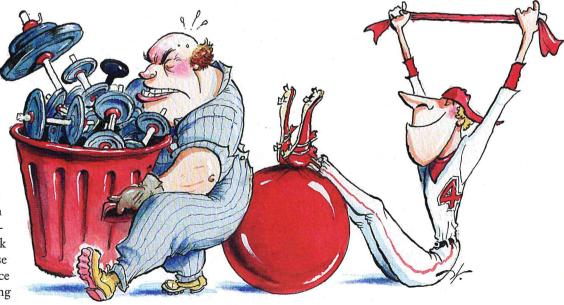
"That's the real upside," Elliott says. "All the studies say that only 5 percent of the players ever get to the Big Leagues, and far fewer are able to stick around for an extended period. We want to make that increase to 8 to 10 percent. We have two to three years to work with these guys. And I can't imagine we won't bump that rate up."

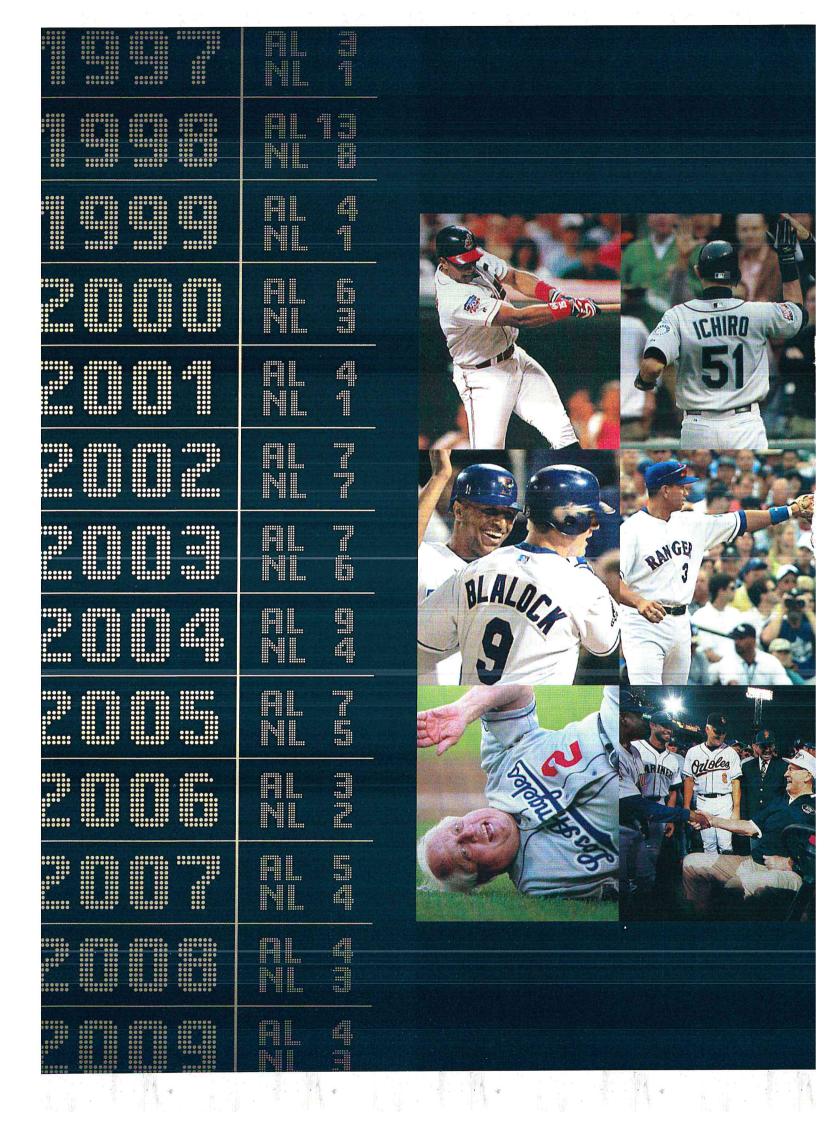
Which brings us back to that cool day at Spring Training in Peoria, Ariz. Elliott remembers the strange looks. He explained to the coaches that interval training and quick bursts were more advantageous than any long runs.

Talk to him for a few minutes, and it's perfectly obvious that Elliott trusts science, and believes that someday his training methods, just like Bill James' once-revolutionary sabermetrics, will be widely accepted in baseball.

"The timing is really right for everything that we want to do," Elliott says. "We are very committed to getting this right. We aren't trying to prove a model, or anything like that, we just want to keep evolving to help players take advantage of the tools that make them better in baseball."

Troy E. Renck covers baseball for the Denver Post.



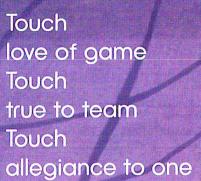


A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S STREAK

Throughout the rule changes, history-making moments and tight ballgames, one thing has remained constant in recent All-Star Games: The AL hasn't lost.

CERTAIN FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS APPLY IN BASEBALL REGARDLESS OF WEATHER PATTERNS. disabled list numbers, attendance figures or home run trends. Each summer, it's a virtual lock that St. Louis first baseman Albert Pujols will be in the Most Valuable Player discussion, the New York Yankees will draw more than 3 million fans, Jamie Moyer will try to slip a 74-mph change-up past an unsuspecting hitter, and at least one member of the media will describe San Diego Padres second baseman David Eckstein as "scrappy." • And on the second Monday in July, Bill Giles will sit at a hotel podium next to Jackie Autry during a press conference and play the role of Wile E. Coyote. In lieu of anvils, dynamite sticks and pianos falling from second-story windows, Giles will do his best to dodge good-natured insults and a burdensome history. • Giles, son of former National League president Warren Giles and a longtime executive and ownership presence with the Philadelphia Phillies, has represented the NL as honorary president at the All-Star Game since July 2001. He's 0-8 with one tie on his resume, a streak that provides him with lots of motivation and requires him to grin and bear it when Autry, his American League counterpart, delivers a good-natured jibe. ● A typical example came before the All-Star Game in New York in 2008, when Autry told the assembled media that she "went to church and said a novena for Bill Giles." The following night, Team Autry worked overtime to win, 4-3, in 15 innings. The game took 4 hours, 50 minutes to complete, finally ending at 1:38 a.m. ● The National League's last All-Star victory came at Philadelphia's Veterans Stadium in 1996, when Dodgers catcher Mike Piazza, a product of nearby Norristown, Pa., homered and doubled to spark a 6-0 victory and win the game's Most Valuable Player Award. Since then, the American League has won squeakers, blowouts and everything in between. The lone exception came in 2002 at Miller Park in Milwaukee, when the respective teams ran out of pitchers in the 11th inning and the game ended in a 7-7 tie. ● The only piece of good news for Giles? Other than home-field advantage in the World Series — and pride — nothing has been at stake. "I still remember when Jackie gave me a Gene Autry cowboy hat one year when the National League won the World Series," Giles says. "I still have that hat and I'm proud of it. But we have a pact now where we don't give gifts anymore for the All-Star Game. It's good for me — it saves me money."

BYJEHRY CHRENICK





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The state of the s

It's generally acknowledged that baseball's All-Star Game is the best in all of sports, in large part because of the passion, history and tradition involved. Cincinnati Reds supporters took civic pride to new heights in 1957 when fans stuffed the ballot boxes, sending seven Cincinnati players to the Midsummer Classic, and forcing the Commissioner to adjust the starting lineup. And American League Manager Cito Gaston glimpsed the passion of Baltimore fans in 1993 when they booed him for opting not to pitch Orioles starter Mike Mussina. In recent years, the emotion has ramped up in the form of spirited campaigns on behalf of Shane Victorino, Pablo Sandoval and others in the Final Vote online balloting.

But the intense competition for roster spots hasn't translated to equality on the playing field. People with long memories can recall when the cleat was on the other foot and the National League possessed a monopoly on celebrations. From 1963–82, the NL won 19 of 20 All-Star Games. It boasted win streaks of eight and 11 games, interrupted only by the 1971 matchup, when Oakland's Reggie Jackson homered off a transformer atop Tiger Stadium's roof to lead the Junior Circuit to a 6-4 victory.

That extended run of dominance was fueled by the NL's proactive approach to integration. During one 13-year stretch, every starting outfielder chosen for the NL was either black or Latino. Billy Williams, Willie Stargell, Lou Brock and Orlando Cepeda — all future Hall of Famers — joined the holy trinity of Willie Mays, Hank Aaron and Roberto Clemente in various combinations in the NL's starting lineup each year.

By all accounts, National Leaguers regarded the All-Star Game with a sense of urgency that bordered on obsessive. Pete Rose's game-winning head-first collision with Cleveland catcher Ray Fosse in the 1970 edition was the most noteworthy example, but the win-at-all-costs mentality was apparent at all levels. Rose once observed that when Warren Giles entered

the clubhouse to give his traditional pep talk, "the veins in his neck would be popping out."

"My father was very into the competition," Bill Giles says. "We used to have charter flights during the World Series. The National League had one plane and the American League had another plane and all the club executives would go on the charter. My father always wanted the NL plane to leave first and to land first. He always wanted to have his martini prior to the president of the American League."

The advent of free agency in 1976 facilitated unprecedented movement between the leagues and put a crimp in lifelong allegiances. With the introduction of Interleague Play in 1997, another traditional barrier fell by the wayside. Even the umpiring crews began hopscotching leagues from one series to the next.

In an effort to inject more spice into the game, MLB's owners voted 30-0 to award home-field advantage in the World Series to the victorious league in the All-Star Game. "This energizes it," Selig said after the vote in January of 2003. "This really gives them something to play for."

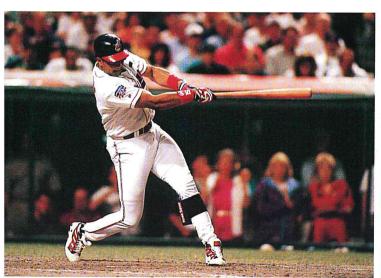
The only thing the format change failed to do was alter the result: The Junior Circuit, which won five in a row before the 2002 tie in Milwaukee, has reeled off seven straight victories since MLB raised the stakes.

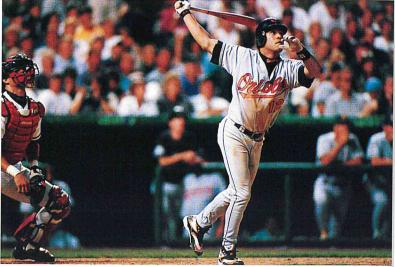
While there hasn't been a single, overarching theme during the AL's recent run, we've seen several mini-trends come and go. Here are just a few:

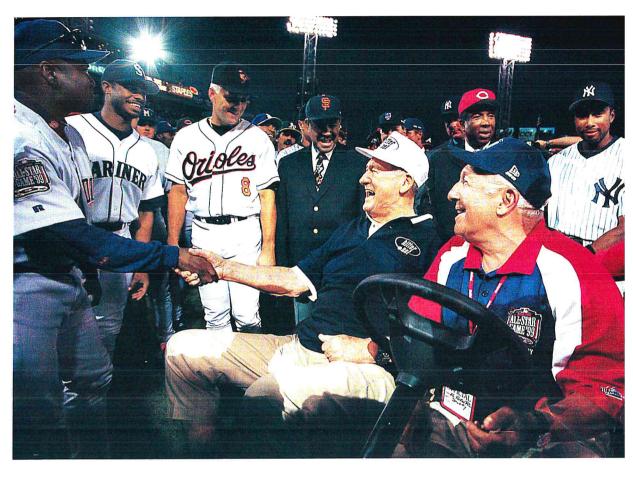
BROTHERS IN ARMS

IN 1997, CLEVELAND catcher Sandy Alomar Jr. hit a two-run homer off Shawn Estes in the seventh inning to give the AL a 3-1 victory at Jacobs Field. Alomar became the first player to homer in his home park in an All-Star Game since Atlanta's Hank Aaron went deep at Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium in 1972. To add a touch of poignancy to the proceedings, Alomar also produced the winning hit and won the game's

The Alomar family dominated in the late '90s, with Sandy going deep in 1997 (left) and Roberto hitting a longball in the 1998 Classic.







Williams' return to Fenway for the 1999 edition will never be forgotten by anyone who attended or watched on TV.

> MVP honors just a few days after the death of his grandmother. "I felt like she was watching over me the whole time," Alomar said later. "Then, I get in the game and hit a home run. It was like something came over me and I couldn't fail. It was like a fairy tale."

> The Alomar family tear continued the following year when Sandy's younger brother, Roberto, then with Baltimore, homered, singled twice and stole a base to capture an MVP trophy of his own. The AL won, 13-8, at Coors Field in the highest-scoring and then-longest contest by time (3 hours, 38 minutes) in All-Star Game history.

FOND FAREWELLS

THE MOST EMOTIONAL farewell occurred at Fenway Park in 1999, when 34,187 fans and a generation of players paid homage to the man many regard as the greatest hitter ever. Ted Williams, 80 years old and

"It brought tears to my eyes. What an honor to stand on the field with Ted Williams. Just outstanding. I was in awe."

—Larry Walker

slowed by a stroke, rode onto the field in a golf cart and threw out the ceremonial first pitch with an assist from Tony Gwynn. Many in the crowd held back tears as Williams acknowledged the fans with a wave.

"When we gathered around Ted, there were tears in his eyes," Colorado's Larry Walker recalls. "I turned away. It brought tears to my eyes. What an honor to stand on the field with Ted Williams and the other people who were there. Just outstanding. I was in awe. I struck out in Fenway Park and hit a comebacker to the mound — and I'm pretty proud of it."

Boston starting pitcher Pedro Martinez made history of his own when he struck out Barry Larkin, Walker, Sammy Sosa, Mark McGwire and Jeff Bagwell in a span of six hitters in the first two frames. The display prompted Hall of Famer Frank Robinson to refer to Martinez as "the Bob Gibson of his era."

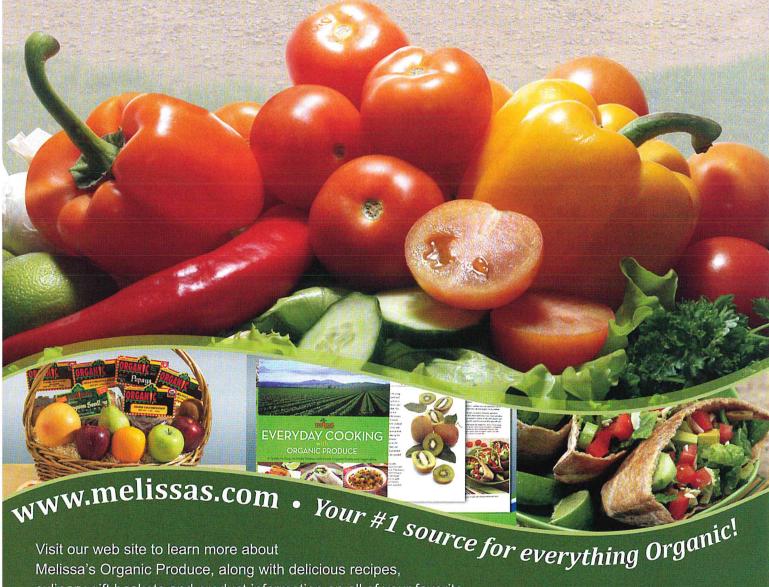
A different sort of celebration occurred two years later in Seattle, when Cal Ripken Jr. received his own going-away tribute. On his way to third base in the top of the first, Ripken received a shove toward shortstop from Alex Rodriguez. The teammates swapped positions for the inning, with Ripken making his first appearance at short since Sept. 1, 1997.

That was just the start. Ripken, 40, went deep against the Dodgers' Chan Ho Park to supplant Stan Musial as the oldest player to homer in an All-Star Game. Later, the game stopped for several minutes



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A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S STREET

before the sixth inning as Selig and the other All-Stars honored Ripken and Gwynn, both of whom were planning to retire at season's end. The scoreboard flashed the message, "Thanks Cal and Tony."

"It's been a great run," Ripken told the crowd.

CAREER REBIRTH

IN JULY 2008, players gathered for the final All-Star Game at Yankee Stadium. No one did more to send the ballpark out in style than Rangers outfielder Josh Hamilton, who put on an awesome power display in the Home Run Derby.

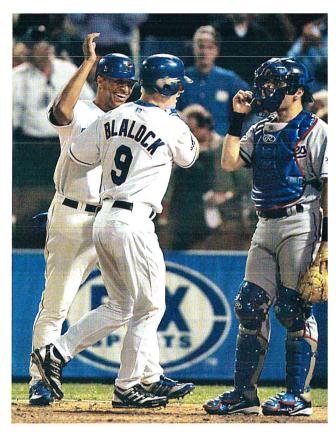
Hamilton, 27, made for a compelling story with his inspirational comeback from drug and alcohol problems. He proceeded to turn Yankee Stadium into his own personal playground, pelting the outfield seats with 28 first-round homers, and going deep on an amazing 13 straight swings at one point. Even though he lost to Minnesota's Justin Morneau in the finals, his power surge made him the focal point of the evening. As he basked in the glow, Hamilton told reporters that he had actually once dreamed about winning a Derby at Yankee Stadium.

"I got a chance, when I was in the middle of that streak, to look up and see my mom and dad and family and everybody, just absolutely laughing and cheering," Hamilton says. "And I mean, that's priceless."

In the first All-Star Game with more than pride on the line, Blalock took Gagne deep to win home-field rights for the AL.

BIG-TIME CLOSER BLUES

Relievers with Nearly spotless resumes have taken some hits on the All-Star stage. Dodgers closer Eric Gagne had successfully converted 39 straight saves in 2003 before allowing a two-run homer to Texas third baseman Hank Blalock in a 7-6 AL victory at U.S. Cellular Field in Chicago.



"I'm sure whoever reaches the World Series in a Game 7 will send him a 12-pack of something," Yankees first baseman Jason Giambi said afterward.

As it turns out, the Florida Marlins would beat Giambi's Yankees in six games in the World Series. The storyline repeated itself three years later at PNC Park in Pittsburgh, where San Diego closer Trevor Hoffman allowed a climactic two-run triple to Texas

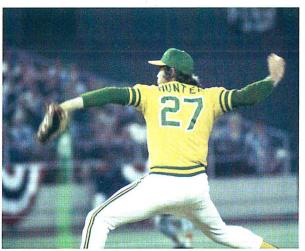
THE BEST LAID PLANS ...

For all the talk of the American League's current streak, things haven't always been so rosy in the Junior Circuit. Between 1950 and 1987, the American League All-Stars won just eight Midsummer Classics, tying one other. The stretch was particularly devastating considering that prior to the NL's streak, the AL had won 12 of the first 16 All-Star Games.

By the 1974 Midsummer Classic, hosted by the Pirates, the situation had become dire enough that American League executives felt a need to take action. League President Lee MacPhail made clear his desire for a new level of seriousness and proactivity in ending the streak, even suggesting that AL teams should rest pitchers in the days leading up to the All-Star Game. "It's just an informal agreement," MacPhail told The Associated Press. "I've always felt that we should have some rested pitchers in order to win."

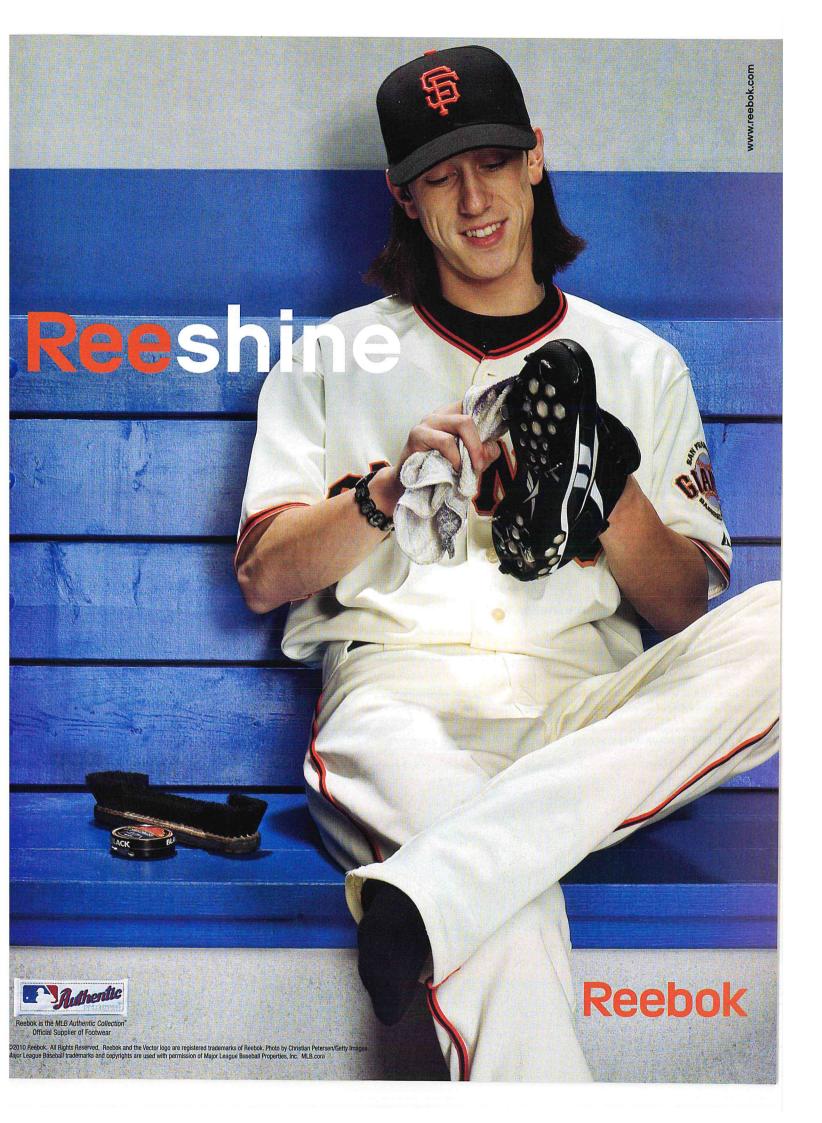
MacPhail even suggested that AL Manager Dick Williams focus all his efforts on securing the victory, rather than letting players enjoy the spirit of the exhibition. "We agreed to concentrate on winning, and that it was important to keep the best team on the field at all times," he said. "I told Dick that winning comes first, not keeping the players happy."

MacPhail's efforts proved fruitless. The NL won again, 7-2. —Jon Schwartz



The pitching staff may have been rested, but Catfish Hunter was one of four AL hurlers to give up a run to the NL in 1974.

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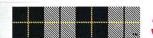
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©3M 2010. 3M, ScotchBlue, the BLUE color of the tape and the Plaid design are trademarks of 3M. shortstop Michael Young in a 3-2 AL victory. Once again, home field wasn't a factor in the World Series; the National League champion St. Louis Cardinals eliminated the Detroit Tigers in five games.

COMEDY AND WEIRDNESS

WHO CAN FORGET NL coach Tommy Lasorda taking a spill while trying to dodge a flung bat in 2001 at

Safeco Field? Or Larry Walker turning around and batting from the right side against Randy Johnson during the 1997 game in Cleveland? Or Barry Bonds playfully lifting Torii Hunter off the ground after "Spiderman's" acrobatic leaping catch at the fence in Milwaukee in '02? Or Ichiro Suzuki circling the bases with the first inside-the-park homer in All-Star history at AT&T Park in San Francisco?

For a sheer out-of-the-box experience, nothing surpassed

the 2008 All-Star marathon at Yankee Stadium, which saw Phillies closer Brad Lidge warm up six times before finally entering the game in the 15th.

In the end, the one question no one has quite been able to answer is: "Why is this happening?" How has the AL managed to go undefeated in All-Star Games since the middle of the Clinton administration? Some observers theorize that the New York Yankees and

Boston Red Sox have raised the competitive bar for the rest of the AL with their spirited competition. Others point to the superior hitting talent in the AL because of the designated hitter rule, the presence of progressive front offices in the AL, and some lopsided interleague trades over a span of several years.

In the midst of the seemingly endless despair for the National League, there is always hope. When

the All-Star Game returns to Anaheim, we'll think back to the first time it was played at the Angels' home field — 1967. That year, Don Mincher led the hometown Angels with 25 home runs, and workhorse starter George Brunet threw 250 innings on the way to a 3.31 ERA.

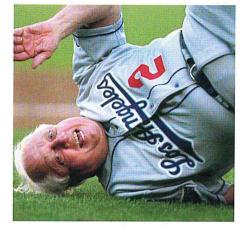
Joe Girardi, who will try to extend the AL's streak this year as manager, was 2 years old in 1967. And Bill Giles was overseeing media relations and promotions for the Astros.

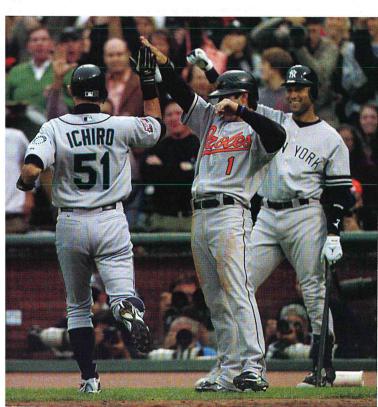
Oh yeah — the NL won that game, 2-1, on Tony Perez's solo home run off Catfish Hunter in the 15th inning. "That's a good omen," Giles says.

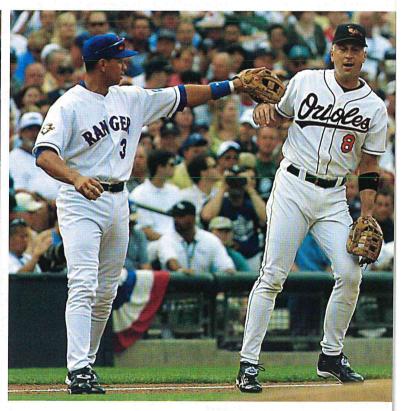
As he readies himself for another pregame press conference, the National League's honorary president will take encouragement wherever he can get it. •

Jerry Crasnick is a senior baseball writer for ESPN.com.

Midsummer Classic memories last forever, from Lasorda's tumble (top) to Ichiro's inside-the-park job (bottom left) to A-Rod's respectful gesture during Ripken's last All-Star go-around.









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SIMPLY PERFECT

BALL

With no-hitters galore, tight division races and new faces, the first half of the season has been everything a fan could hope for. BY RACHEL JACOBY

THE 2010 SEASON HAS BEEN ONE

for the pitchers. Both seasoned moundsmen and up-and-coming youngsters have been hurling the ball with serious fire. Through just the first week of June there had already been three (almost four) nohitters — two (almost three) of them perfect — amidst a sea of starts in which a team's fifth pitcher could easily be swapped for the staff ace. Just ask Yankees fans, who saw Phil Hughes lead the Yankees in most pitching categories over the first two months of the 2010 campaign. Meanwhile, St. Louis's Jamie Garcia put up numbers normally reserved for the Chris Carpenters and Adam

COLORA

Jimenez threw a no-hitter in April, and made headlines throughout the first half for his dominant performances.

ALL-STAR GAME 2010 53

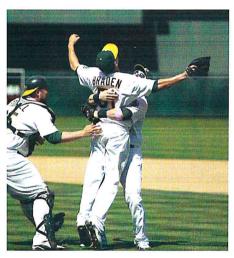
Wainwrights of the league. And they were just two. Ubaldo Jimenez started the no-hitter trend and was quickly followed by Dallas Braden's and Roy Halladay's perfect performances. And of course there was the controversial one-hitter thrown by Armando Galarraga, the kind-of-sort-of third perfecto of the season.

Among these pitching gems, there were two young, super-hyped flamethrowers — the Reds' Aroldis Chapman and the Nationals' Stephen Strasburg — despite neither having pitched in the Majors through May. And don't forget the surprising sluggers and shocking surges, not to mention those unexpected clubs making division runs for the first time in ages. Who could have predicted that the Cincinnati Reds, who haven't made the playoffs since 1995, would be tied for the NL Central lead through the first week of June? Or that Robinson Cano would emerge with numbers among the league's best?

Then there are the stars in the making. Take six-year Brewers veteran Corey Hart, who led the NL with 14 longballs through May. His American League counterpart? Through the first two months, Toronto's Jose Bautista reigned with a whopping 16 blasts. Bautista's Blue Jays led the league in home runs (20 more than any other team) and the pitching staff led the Majors in strikeouts. Not bad for a club that was forced to look up at the Rays and Yankees in the standings for much of the first half. On the West Coast, there was Andre Ethier, a favorite in Hollywood. Despite suffering a broken pinky finger that landed him on the 15-day DL, Ethier had a matinee-idol-worthy average of .376 through May, while Justin Morneau of the Twins was just points back and leading the Junior Circuit.

Even with Ethier's hot start for the preseason-favorite Dodgers, though, the NL West has emerged as the most surprising neck-and-neck race in all of baseball, with the Padres near the top of the division. And don't forget the Rockies, who have sluggers in veteran Todd Helton and Troy Tulowitzki, and fresh faces like Jimenez, while San Francisco has Tim Lincecum and Matt Cain — arguably the best pitching duo in the game.

Surely, once this midsummer break is complete, fans are in store for loads more surprises down the stretch. But what follows are the major storylines for the season's first half.





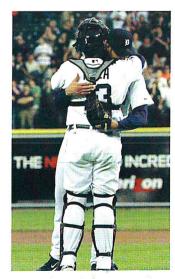


PITCHER PERFECT

JIMENEZ STARTED IT all by throwing his no-hitter on April 17. The big right-hander has made his mark in Rockies history as the first to accomplish such a feat. And he was also the first in the Majors to 10 wins, sporting a barely-there 0.78 ERA throughout the first two months of the campaign. Fans began wondering if Bob Gibson's 1968 ERA mark of 1.12 was reachable.

Just a couple of weeks after Jimenez's no-no, the Athletics' Dallas Braden, making the 53rd start of his career, threw a perfect game against the red-hot Rays — the 19th ever recorded in Major League history. The Mother's Day outing was especially meaningful for the lefty; the 26-year-old Braden lost his mother, who had raised him as a single parent, to skin cancer when he was a senior in high school.

Braden, Jimenez and Halladay (above, from left) threw no-nos (Braden's and Halladay's perfect), but fate wasn't kind to Galarraga.



If anyone could top these two performances, Roy Halladay was just the man for the job. After dominating arguably the toughest division in the Bigs during his time in Toronto, Halladay swapped leagues without losing any of his heat. In his first 10 starts, "Doc" threw four complete games. But his perfecto, tossed on May 29, sparkled with 11 strikeouts — an unusually high number for a pitcher known for getting outs on easy ground balls. Reflecting on the game, Halladay told MLB.com, "Early in my [warm-up], I felt like I was hitting spots more than I have been, and I just carried that over. There are days when things just kind of click and things happen, and it's something you obviously never go out and try to do. But it's a great feeling." A great feeling indeed, especially for a famously hard worker like Halladay.





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Reflecting on the moment to Sports Illustrated, Yankees closer Mariano Rivera recalled only Joyce's stellar reputation as an umpire: "It happened to the best umpire we have in our game. The best. And a perfect gentleman. Obviously, it was a mistake. It was a perfect game. It's a shame for both of them, for the pitcher and for the umpire. But I'm telling you, he is the best baseball has, and a great guy. It's just a shame."

fecto to a one-hit shutout.

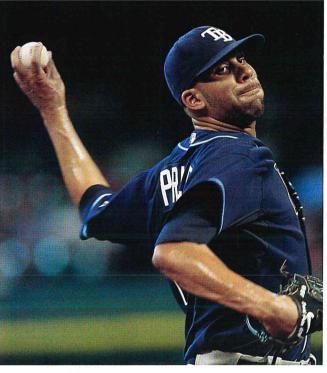
STING-RAYS

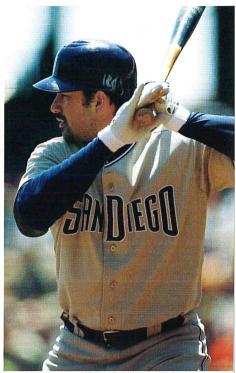
IN 2008, THE Tampa Bay Rays seemingly did the impossible: They went from worst to first and captured the 11-year-old franchise's first AL pennant, narrowly losing out on a World Series title to Philadelphia. But in 2009 the team struggled in the tough-as-nails American League East, finishing third, behind the division's perennial contenders from New York and Boston. Wrought with such disappointment — after

all, the clock always ticks loudest on a small-market club with such young talent — the Rays came back stronger than ever in the new decade. They were the first Major League club to win 30 games (a feat accomplished on May 20 against the reigning world champion and division-rival Yankees), and have a premium blend of slugging and pitching capabilities that often leave opponents shaking their heads in frustration.

Perhaps no one is more critical to the team than 24-year-old Evan Longoria. In his first two seasons in the Majors, the Rays' third baseman smashed 60 longballs and knocked in 198 runs. He won the 2008 AL Rookie of the Year Award and signed a long-term contract in the same week as his first Big League game. There certainly was no slowing down for 2010, as Longoria hit the ground running with 10 homers, 42 RBI and 35 runs scored — all before the beginning of June.

Just beyond Longoria in left field resides versatile threat Carl Crawford. In addition to running down anything in sight, Crawford has lightning-fast speed on the base paths — stealing 16 bags in 20 attempts during the first two months.





Price (left) and Gonzalez have been world beaters thus far, and both were big reasons why their teams were thriving through June.

But the Rays wouldn't be so threatening without one of the game's most impressive starting rotations, filled with some of the league's best — if hardly the most seasoned — arms. Following "Big Game" James Shields in the rotation are young flamethrowers like Matt Garza and David Price, who are beginning to emerge as the aces to beat. With Jeff Niemann and Wade Davis rounding out the quintet, the starting rotation combined to win 27 of its first 34 starts, with Niemann posting an impressive 2.37 ERA through May. Niemann chalks it up in part to team bonding. "We've grown and matured and gotten to know each other these past few years," he says. "We're always asking each other what we can do better."

San Diego, led by Adrian Gonzalez, has made enough of an impression to turn what some thought would be a three-horse race between the Dodgers, Giants and Rockies into a four-team jumble for the division title.

SIMPLY PERFECT



Clockwise from top: Andrus, Guerrero and Cruz have helped pace the Rangers to a start that saw them leading the AL West for much of the season's first half.





FATHER FIGURES

When the 2010 season opened, it was expected that a Southern California team would pace the NL West for much of the year. But who would have guessed it would be the Padres, who many experts picked to finish last, atop the standings through the first two months of the season? San Diego — led by slugging first baseman Adrian Gonzalez, who ranked first on the team in homers, RBI and OBP through May — has made enough of an impression to turn what some thought would be a three-horse race between the Dodgers, Giants and Rockies into a four-team jumble for the division title. Under the guidance of Manager Bud Black, the Padres silenced critics by entering June an impressive 10 games over .500, but the West remained very much up for grabs heading into the second half.

EVERYTHING'S BIGGER IN TEXAS

ALWAYS PRESENT BUT far from being a true contender, the Texas Rangers have long struggled to get all of their pieces working at once. But thanks to the franchise's focus on young talent and speed, with just a dash of veteran leadership thrown in for good measure, the 2010 Rangers have eclipsed everyone's expectations — except their own, of course, as several players had claimed during Spring Training that theirs was the team to beat. The 35-year-old Vladimir Guerrero was rejuvenated upon

signing with the Rangers. Through June 15, he was on pace to surpass 30 home runs for the first time since 2006, and he complemented his power with an average well above .300 during that time. Then there's Josh Hamilton, who has contributed as much in the outfield as at the dish, where he posted nine homers through the first two months of the campaign. But young stars like Elvis Andrus and Nelson Cruz have bolstered the veterans,

too, pushing the club to a prime position in the AL West. Andrus swiped 19 bags through June 15 and Cruz had walloped 10 homers through May before landing on the 15-day DL.



Morneau has led the Twins in their new home.

MORE FOR MORNEAU

THANK YOU, CANADA. That's what Twins fans must be thinking about Justin Morneau. The Northern transplant has been one of the AL's most potent hitters in 2010. It doesn't hurt to have the likes of Michael Cuddyer and 2009 AL MVP Joe Mauer protecting you in the lineup. But after missing the 2009 stretch run due to injury, Morneau was leading the AL in OPS through June 15.

Thanks to the franchise's focus on young talent and speed, with just a dash of veteran leadership thrown in for good measure, the 2010 Rangers have eclipsed everyone's expectations — except their own, of course.



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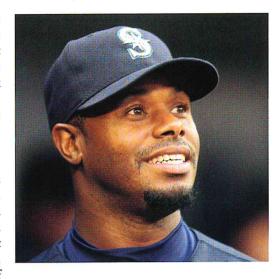
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SIMPLY PERFECT

Minnesota's Brendan Harris is thrilled to have Morneau back, but he saw last year that theirs is anything but a one-man team, memories of which boost the club's confidence. "I think psychologically," Harris says, "it told us, 'We got a good shot. If we can do the little things, we can win the division."

SAY GOODBYE

THE FIRST HALF of 2010 also included a bittersweet goodbye. After 22 seasons, with time spent in both circuits, Ken Griffey Jr. announced his retirement on June 2. Boasting one of the sweetest swings ever to grace the Major Leagues, the 13-time All-Star sits near the top of the all-time career home run list with 630, mostly while playing sparkling defense in the outfield before being relegated to a designated hitter role for his last few seasons.



While baseball said goodbye to Griffey (top), Strasburg gave fans a peek at the next class of baseball superstars. Stephen Strasburg. A Southern California native, Strasburg more than held his own in his progression through the Minors this year. He gave up just 14 runs through 55.1 innings in Double-A and Triple-A prior to his June 8 debut in Washington.

For the first two months, the Nats eagerly awaited Strasburg's entrance into the rotation. And he did not disappoint when given the nod, striking out an astounding 14 Pirates and walking none in his debut, which the Nats won, 5-2. As fellow Nationals starter John Lannan says: "This kid is unbelievable. He lives up to the expectations and the hype. And he's got a great head on his

shoulders, which makes him even better."

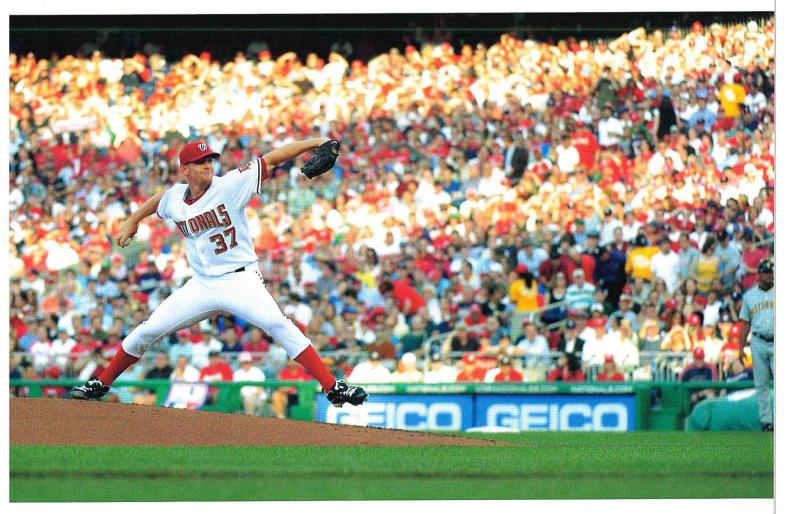
While Chapman's start date may still be a question mark, his velocity is not. A regular 100-mph fastball keeps him constantly at the top of everyone's inquiring minds.

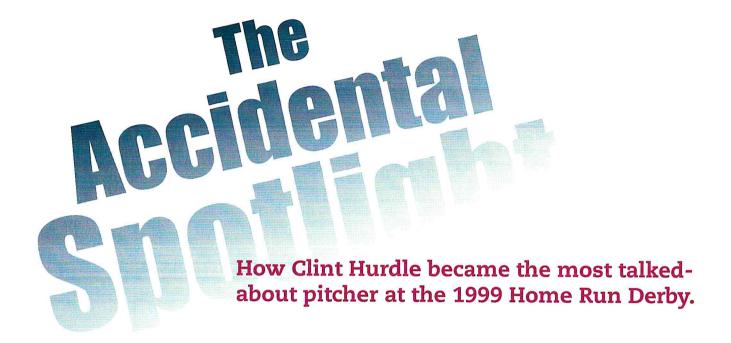
Whenever Chapman debuts, fans should expect big things. After all, if there's one theme of the 2010 season, it's that kid pitchers do the darndest things. ◆

Rachel Jacoby is a freelance writer based in New York City.

YOUNG BLOOD

PERHAPS THE MOST talked about player of the season is a pitcher who had yet to see any Major League field time through May:





rou

as told to Jon Schwartz

ILLUSTRATIONS BY JAMES BENNETT

BY CLINT HURDLE

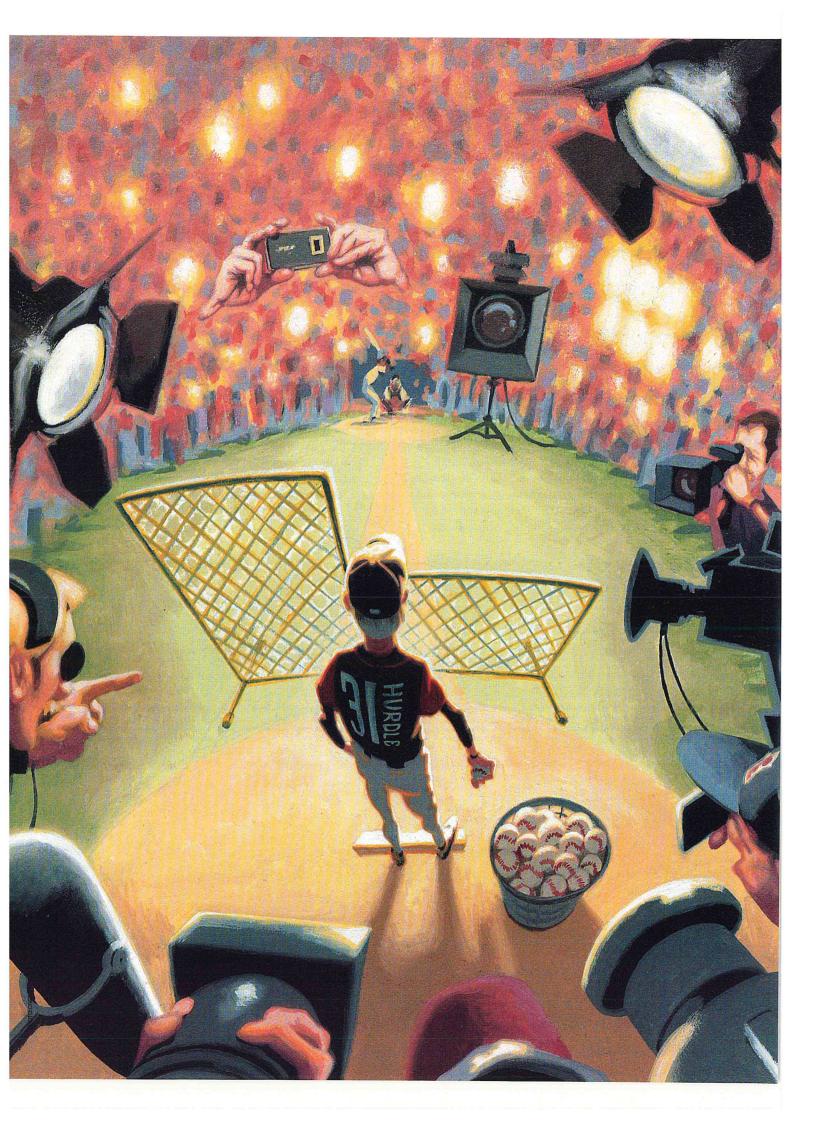
SINCE ITS HUMBLE BEGINNING IN 1985, THE HOME RUN DERBY HAS EVOLVED

into one of America's most beloved sporting events. More Americans tune in to ESPN to watch sluggers hit batting practice fastballs than any NBA playoff game that has aired on the network. It's difficult to say when exactly the Derby transformed from a sideshow gimmick to the most watched cable sports event of the summer, but many point to the 1999 edition at Fenway Park.

Ted Williams looked on as Mark McGwire, Ken Griffey Jr. and Sammy Sosa were set to put on a show. McGwire did not disappoint, sending a then-single-round-record 13 home runs onto Lansdowne Street beyond the Green Monster. But the unsung hero of that night was Clint Hurdle, at that point the Rockies' hitting coach. Larry Walker invited Hurdle to throw to him during the Derby. But when Hurdle said yes, he had no idea what he was getting himself into.

Of course, Hurdle will forever be immortalized as the man who, as manager, first brought a National League pennant to Denver. Coming off a 10-2 loss to the last-place Florida Marlins on Sept. 15, 2007, the Rockies had slipped to fourth in the NL West. With just two weeks left in the season, the team's first playoff berth in more than a decade seemed hopelessly out of reach. One month later, the Rockies had completed a sweep of the NLCS, giving them an astounding 21 victories in 22 games.

With all that he has accomplished in his career, including the honor of managing the NL All-Stars at the 2008 Midsummer Classic in New York, one might think that throwing glorified BP during the Home Run Derby wouldn't rate. But Hurdle still calls the experience "incredible," and it's easy to see why.



After throwing to Walker, Hurdle was unexpectedly tapped by three other players. The relatively unknown hitting coach and former player (Fenway Park's PA announcer actually bellowed that Brewers bullpen catcher Ron Nedset was pitching to Jeromy Burnitz) was throwing in front of millions of fans. It sure didn't feel like batting practice.

At the end of the night, Griffey was crowned Derby champion for a record third time. As soon as he hit the clinching home run, he went straight to Hurdle to give him a hug. On the television broadcast, ESPN's Joe Morgan said, "Griffey does the right thing. He says [to Hurdle], 'You helped me win it.'"

But let's have Hurdle tell the rest of the story himself:

I HAD PLANNED A NICE THREE-DAY VACATION WITH MY WIFE FOR the 1999 All-Star break. We were going to go to the mountains to get away. But then Larry Walker extended me an invitation to go throw to him in the Home Run Derby. Larry had just had a phenomenal first half — *phenomenal*. He was hitting .382 with 25 bombs. I really think it was one of the best first halves of all time. I accepted the opportunity — it was really an honor.

So I come home that night and say, "Well honey, what I meant to say is, 'I'm going to go to the All-Star Game and I'm going to throw batting practice." So that was the first speed bump. But, I took my wife with me. Although the

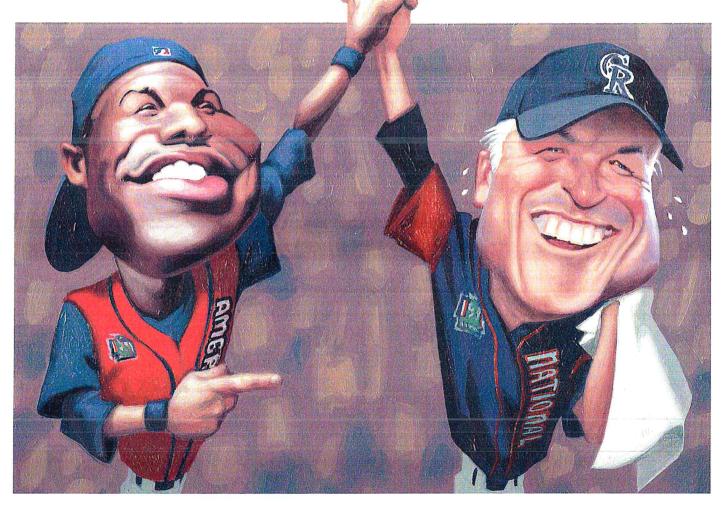
Derby was still in its early stages, it has always been exciting. It was a really nice dynamic at Fenway. But then you get out on the mound, where you're looking at the visual and checking everything out. I was like, "Whoa, this is heavy." Throwing BP is one thing;

throwing BP in front of 39,000 people in the stands — and something like 9 million more watching on television — is another. They remove the cage, which creates a whole different visual than I'm used to. And the media attention is something of a carnival, so you've got a few different emotions going that you normally don't have for BP at 3:30 or 4:30 in the afternoon.

Normally, you might throw 50 miles per hour, maybe 55. That night I wanted to be firm. So I said, "Okay, here we go," and I throw the first pitch. It hit so short, it *might* have gotten to the dirt. It might have had a grass stain on it. I go, "Holy cow! If I throw another one there, I'll just get booed right out of the park."

My job was just to make it easy on Larry, let him hit home runs — something every other pitcher in the league was doing just fine that year, I might add. You really have to understand, nobody could get Larry out that season. *Nobody*. Except me — I ended up eliminating him in the first round. I guess I knew how to get him out, alright. And I was his batting practice pitcher!

So I kind of walked off the mound, feeling pretty bad for Larry and I figured, "Well, I'm good, I'm done. Didn't embarrass myself or hurt anyone. Now I'll go shower, grab my wife and we'll go to the parties and actually try to have some fun."





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EXPERIENCE THE ENERG

Then, Jeromy Burnitz walks over. He's a player I had in the Minor Leagues with the Mets. Jeromy had a guy come with him, but he was too nervous to throw. Through the process of getting ready, getting loose and everything else, this guy saw what was going on, and he must have just said, "I don't want any part of that." So Jeromy asked if I'd

throw to him. I shook my head, thinking, "I had him as a Minor Leaguer, he's in the Big Leagues now. I can't say no."

Well, Jeromy's bombing the ball off to the right and I got in a better groove. I got my breath back and relaxed a little bit more. He hits a bunch of homers. We walk off and it looks like he might be in position to move forward.

Then, I get a tap on the shoulder, and it's Jeff Bagwell. "Hey," he says. "I don't have a guy to throw. Would you mind throwing to me?" I thought, "Jeez, that's like another trip to the dentist's office." But out of professional respect for Jeff, and since I was there anyway, I said, "Well, sure, I'll throw." And he bombed — bombed in a good way. So I'm walking off, thinking, "Wow, looks like I might have a couple guys moving on."

Then, I get another tap on the shoulder, and it's somebody representing Ken Griffey Jr., asking if I would throw to him. Now I'm like, "Holy cow, wait a minute. This is the fourth guy I'm going to throw to this round." It's a lengthy event — I've already thrown to three guys. But Griffey Jr. — we're not messing around now, this is the cherry on top of the sundae. I'd better throw good now, but do I want to accept this responsibility?

I thought, "Well, I'm already in. We'll see where this goes ..." So he hits a bunch of homers. Well, sonofagun, I have three of the four guys going to the second round! So I throw and throw and throw and throw. Two guys go to the finals, so at least one

The **Accidenta**

of them will be mine. It turns out that Burnitz and Griffey are in the finals — both mine! So we have to reset the trap and do it all again! In the end, Griffey won, 3-2.

It was three guys I had never thrown to before, so I didn't know what they liked. I had

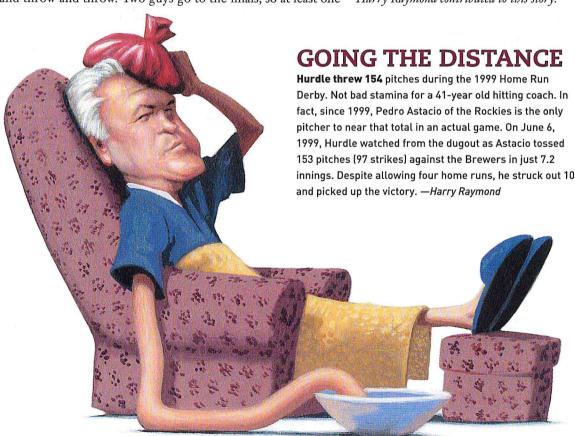
to try to figure it out quickly. I'd ask, "Is that okay?" They might say, "Add some" ... "Back off here if you can" ... "Try to stay middle-away, middle-in." It gets to the point where you're just trying to move it forward, and they're giving you these really specific directions. They're looking for just one particular pitch. So as the night went on, I was just as fatigued mentally as I was physically by the whole process.

By the time that thing was over, I remember walking to the shower and just saying, "I'm toast!" Just the time of getting hot, cooling off, getting hot, cooling off, with the ups and downs and starts and stops, and the number of pitches.

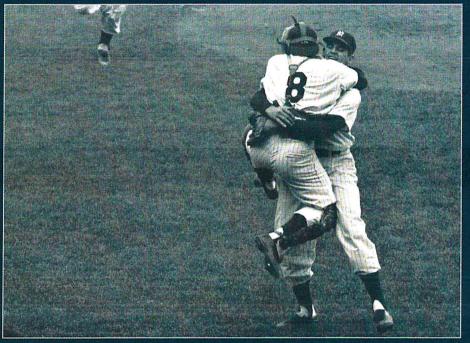
Looking back now, it was an incredible opportunity to be part of an event of such magnitude, especially with those guys. We ended up having a lot of fun, hooting and hollering and all that. But I was in pain the next day. My whole body was sore. My legs were sore and my neck was sore from watching all the homers.

They play it on ESPN Classic over and over again, so I always get a few comments during the season. I actually watched it one time. It was pretty fun to see. Normally, if you put a Home Run Derby video on at home, you're watching the kid hitting. But I'm saying, "No, no. Watch — I'm the guy throwing. I'm the pitcher who finally figured out how to beat Larry Walker." ◆

Clint Hurdle is currently the hitting coach for the Texas Rangers, but served as manager of the Colorado Rockies for more than seven seasons. Harry Raymond contributed to this story.



Demand Perfection



Pitcher Don Larsen (r), of the New York Yankees, wraps his arms around catcher Yog) Berra #8 after the final pitch of Game 5 of the 1956 World Series against the Brooklyn Dodgers at Yankee Stadium in New York. Larsen pitched the first perfect game in World Series history. Diamond Images/Contributor/Getty Images



Roy Halladay of the Philadelphia Phillies is congratulated by his teammates after he pitched a perfect game against the Florida Marlins at Sun Life Stadium on Saturday, May 29, 2010. Robert Vigon/Contributor/Getty Image



Kenny Rogers #37 of the Texas Rangers tips his cap to the fans after pitching a perfect game against the California Angels at the Balipark in Arlington on July 28, 1994. It is the first perfect game in Rangers history and the fifth no-hitter. David Woo/Contributor/ MLB Photos via Getty Images



Mark Buehrle #56 of the Chicago White Sox throws the final pitch of the game to Jason Bartlett to record the 18th perfect game in major league history gainst the Tampa Bay Rays on July 23, 2009 at U.S. Cellular Field in Chicago. Ron Vesely/Contributor/Getty Images



Dallas Braden of the Oakland Athletics celebrates his perfect game after the game between the Tampa Bay Rays and the Oakland Athletics on Sunday, May 9, 2010, at the Oakland Colliseum in Oakland, California. Dallas Braden pitched the 19th perfect game in Major League Baseball history. Brad Manolin/MLB Photos via Getty Imades

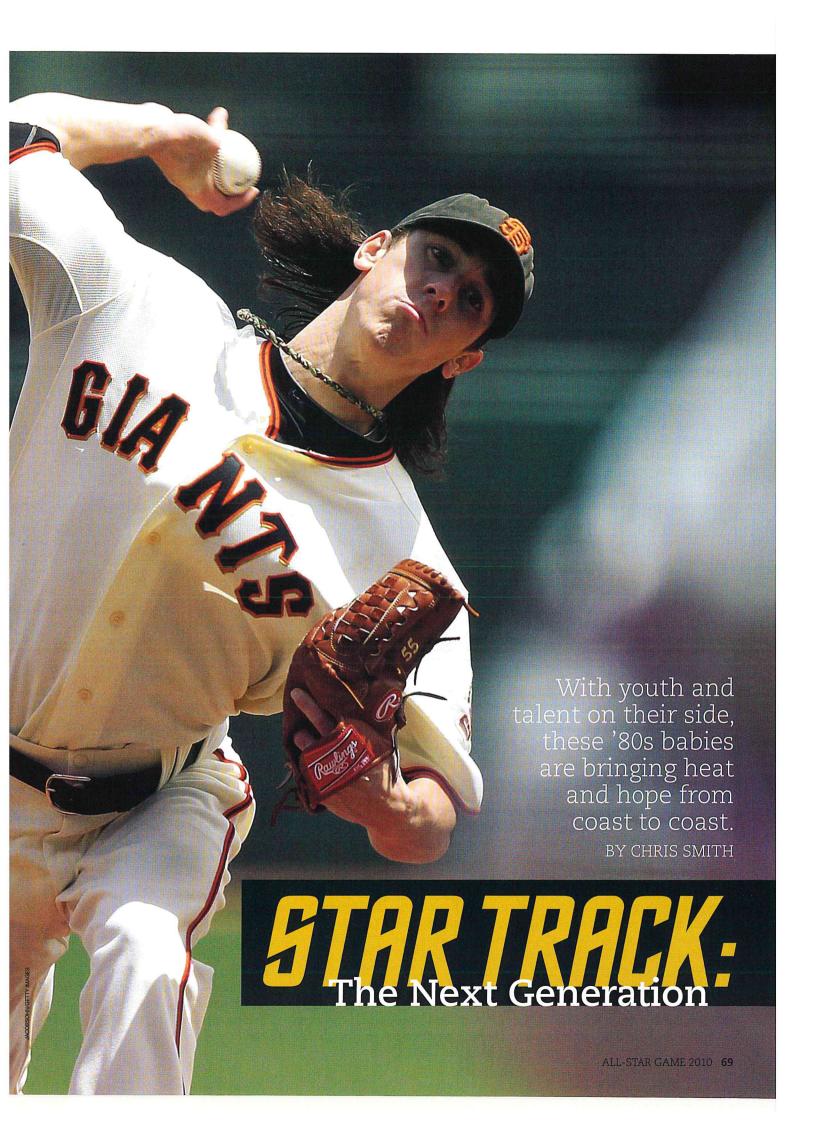
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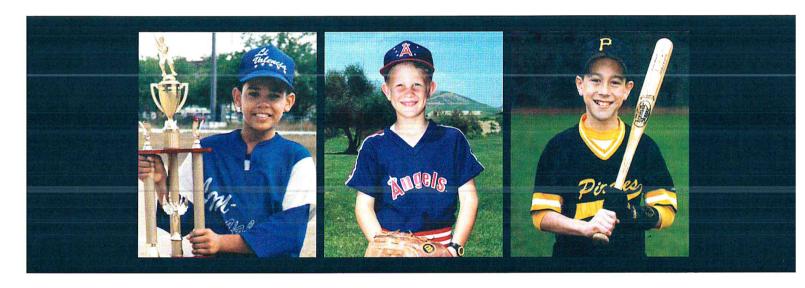
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THE 1980s WERE A PITCHING CONNOISSEUR'S DELIGHT.

Nolan Ryan was blazing away in Houston. Up in Boston, a kid named Roger Clemens was exploding onto the scene. Steve Carlton was completing a brilliant career in Philadelphia. Ron Guidry and Fernando Valenzuela were working lefty magic on opposite coasts. ● But the reason the 1980s could go down as one of the greatest decades in the annals of Major League pitching has nothing to do with the spectacular achievements that occurred inside places like Fenway Park and Chavez Ravine. Few in baseball could have guessed it at the time, but the real action was in the maternity wards of Bellevue, Wash.; Valencia, Venezuela; and Orlando, Fla. That's where the births of little Timmy Lincecum, tiny Felix Hernandez and cuddly Zack Greinke, respectively, were part of a baby boom that, 25 or so years later, is producing perhaps the most amazing wave of young pitchers in Big League history. From the precocious Rick Porcello to the comparatively ancient Adam Wainwright, with Brian Matusz, Tommy Hanson, David Price, Josh Johnson, Aroldis Chapman, Stephen Strasburg and a crowd of others in-between, Big League clubs are now climbing the standings thanks to the arrival of gifted pitchers in their 20s. It's a cliche, but it's an unavoidable title for this group: The Young Guns. ● Players, coaches and scouts scratch their heads trying to explain the phenomenon, citing everything from improvements in drafting strategy to the cable broadcasts of Braves games during the '90s that blanketed the southeast and made role models of Greg Maddux, Tom Glavine and John Smoltz. "The game goes in cycles," Atlanta pitching coach Roger McDowell says. "A few years ago, there were a bunch of shortstops coming up and having success as young players. Whatever the reason, I'm thrilled we've got Tommy Hanson and Jair Jurrjens." Until the grand unifying theory is pinpointed, though, that emotion — joy — is the one thing linking all the brilliant new arms. Of course, if your team is facing Ubaldo Jimenez, Matt Cain or Kevin Slowey in a big game, then the new Generation K is no fun at all.

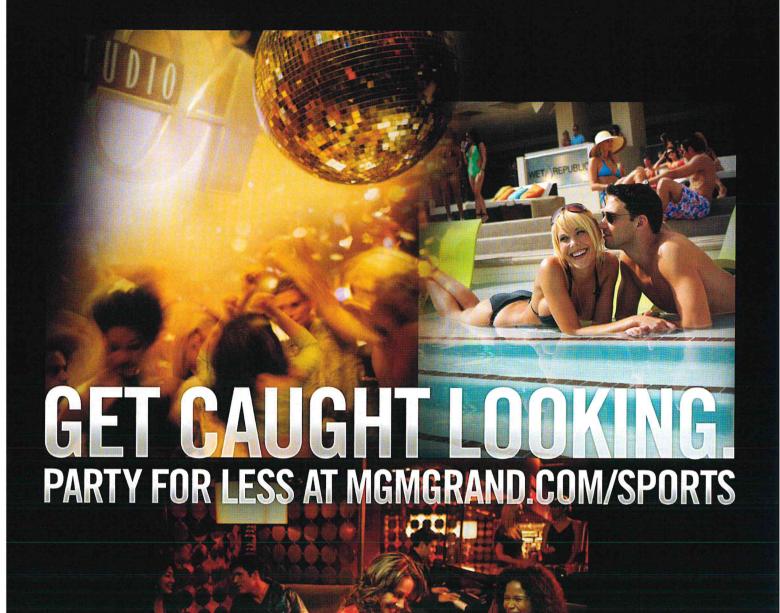


1981: THE START OF SOMETHING BIG

ADAM WAINWRIGHT WILL turn 29 in August, making him the old man of this group — chronologically, anyway. But in starting pitching age, Wainwright is still a youngster, having started his Major League career in the Cardinals' bullpen. And he's very grateful for it. "If I had tried to come up and start," he admits, "I would have gotten smoked. I was not ready. The game changes completely up here." Wainwright spent his first full Big League campaign in the 'pen, winning two games, saving three and collecting one spectacular highlight: a wicked curveball that froze Mets center fielder Carlos Beltran looking to end the 2006 NLCS. Wainwright had been a starter before then, and he's one of the game's best now, but he credits that year in the 'pen, and the patience of the Cardinals' organization, for his success. "Even though I'd done pretty well in the Minors, I had a lot to learn about how to pitch — a lot. Unless you have overwhelming

From left: As young kids of the '80s, Hernandez, Weaver and Lincecum already looked at home on the field. physical ability, you need to understand how to pitch, and it really doesn't happen in your first few years in the Majors. It's one thing to get here, and it's another to stay, and that's really all about learning to make adjustments. Let's say it's the third inning, you've just walked two in a row,

Ryan Braun is coming up and your best pitch isn't working — now what? You either learn to make adjustments or you fail." St. Louis's legendary pitching coach, Dave Duncan, has been his primary teacher, but Wainwright also credits veteran teammate Chris Carpenter, calling him an invaluable mentor. Just then, Carpenter walks past and smacks Wainwright in the gut. "Ow!" Wainwright yells. "And I was saying something nice about you!" Apparently Carpenter still needs to teach him to be onguard in the locker room.



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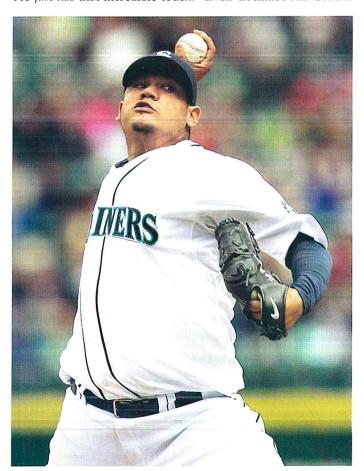
1982: PICKING UP THE PACE

Welcome to the world, Jonathan Sanchez, Ervin Santana, J.A. Happ and Jered Weaver. Having a brother who was bound for the Big Leagues, as Weaver did, fostered a healthy sibling rivalry. But the others have turned out pretty well all on their own, although Sanchez's best highlight so far — a July 2009 nohitter — did come with a bit of family inspiration: His father happened to be in the stands at San Francisco's AT&T Park that night, visiting from Puerto Rico.

1983: KEEPING THE BALL ROLLING

HERE'S A QUINTET every team wishes it signed back when the youngsters were eating mashed peas: Francisco Liriano, Justin Verlander, Matt Garza, Cole Hamels and Zack Greinke. This group has already collected a rookie-year All-Star Game berth (Liriano); a Rookie of the Year Award (Verlander); an ALCS MVP Award (Garza); NLCS and World Series MVPs (Hamels); and a Cy Young Award (Greinke). Each has plenty of admirers, but the awe and respect for Greinke is universal, both because of his overpowering fastball and slider, and because he has overcome emotional issues that forced him to miss most of 2006.

"The young guy who impresses me the most — and not just because of what he's gone through, but because he has pitching intelligence coming out of every pore — is Zack Greinke," says MLB Network analyst and former Big League pitcher Joe Magrane. "You see what he's trying to do on the mound, that he has a clear understanding of what he wants to do with the ball. He just has that incredible touch." Even Greinke's AL Central





rivals heap on the praise. "I love to watch Zack," says the Twins' Kevin Slowey. "He has tremendous stuff, but also a tremendous back story. You appreciate what he's been through, and how he persevered and learned how to pitch."

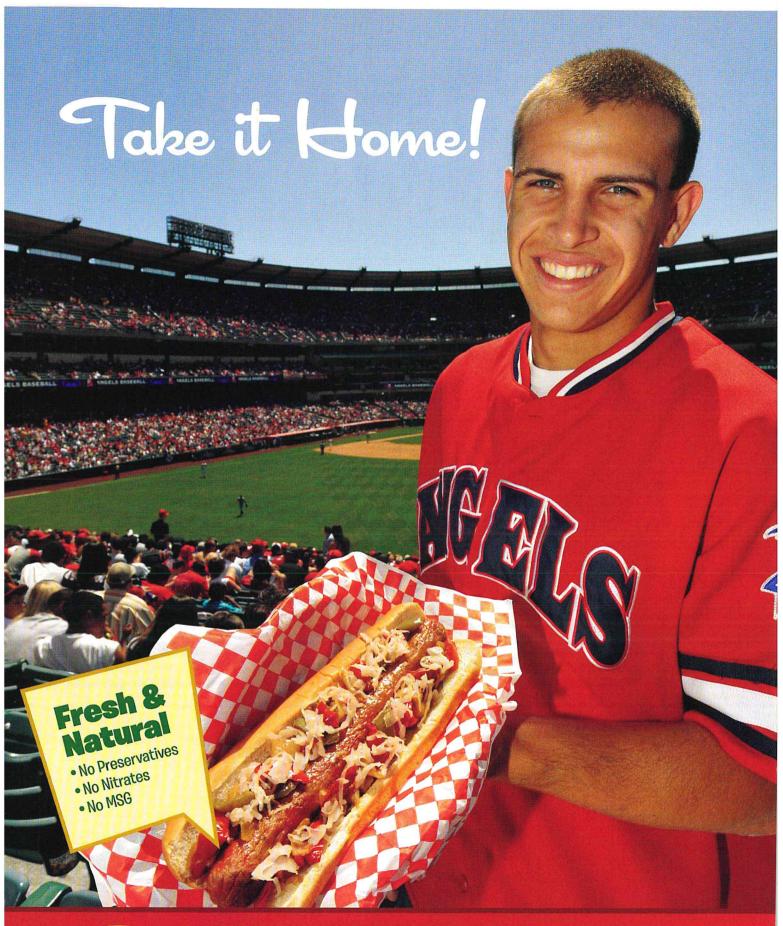
1984: COINCIDENCE? I DON'T THINK SO

TIM LINCECUM, MATT Cain, Ricky Romero, Josh Johnson, Mike Pelfrey, Scott Kazmir, Kevin Slowey, Ubaldo Jimenez ... something's going on here. The Giants have a single calendar year to thank for half the team's terrific rotation. Lincecum deservedly gets most of the hype, but Cain is building on a breakthrough 2009 season in which he won 14 games and had an ERA under 3.00. This bunch boasts power pitchers in Romero, Johnson, Kazmir and Jimenez, as well as craftsmen who win with brains and location, like Slowey. "Kevin is a great calling card for how the Twins organization puts pitchers together," Magrane says. "Minnesota pitchers come to the Major League team as finished products rather than as prospects. Slowey throws every pitch he has for strikes, so Ron Gardenhire can send him out there with a high level of trust, knowing he's going to get a good sampling of innings."

One of Slowey's veteran moundmates, Carl Pavano, knows what it's like to get hot early, live on physical ability, then battle through injuries and study the art of pitching to keep a career alive. Now 34, Pavano isn't exactly puny at 6 foot 5, but even

The Angels' Weaver (top) and Seattle's King Felix should go on to have long careers, which is a boon to the AL West. he marvels at the size of so many of the star young pitchers. "Josh Johnson is 6-7!" Pavano says, whistling. "You're seeing bigger guys all the time as pitchers."

"We played the Padres, and there wasn't a guy under 6-4," McDowell says. "Massive young men."





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Magrane thinks the trend toward larger pitchers is rooted in two things: baseball's traditional love of hard throwers combined with modern economics. "Teams are being more careful in the free-agent market and putting a premium on the collection of draft choices — especially teams not from Boston or New York. So they're taking more quality arms higher in the draft. One thing you notice with this younger group is that you don't see a lot of guys with snake-charming-type stuff. And that's impressive, especially with the strike zone being smaller, that guys with such tremendous stuff are challenging hitters in the strike zone."

One of the beauties of baseball, though, is that as soon as someone identifies a rule, an exception immediately pops up. In size and style, Lincecum is the freak. Other pitchers around the league single him out and say they pay close attention when he's on the mound. "Lincecum is fun to watch because he dominates," says the Marlins' Chris Volstad.

"Lincecum is cool and bizarre in equal parts," Slowey says. "You've got to applaud, especially the idea that we don't all have to look or act the same to succeed. And the results so far in his career speak for themselves."

1985: THE MOMENTUM BUILDS

FIRST, A FEW words from the adults. "There are really two things that separate the great young pitchers from everyone else: the ability to get on the mound without injuries - to go out and compete and put together consistent innings - and the ability to get better," says New York Mets General Manager Omar Minaya. "Plenty of guys have velocity, but it's the guys who learn how to get better who go on to real careers, the guys who develop

one or two consistent pitches that they can depend on no matter what the circumstance."

Tony La Russa thinks that reaching the next level means not being satisfied with mere transcendence. "It's how they handle early success, and whether they strive for even more," he says.

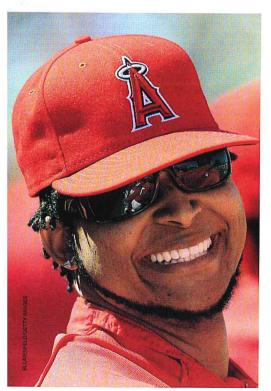
David Price, Wade Davis, Gio Gonzalez, John Danks, Justin Masterson — the leaders of the Class of 1985 — certainly have

"Lincecum is cool and bizarre in equal parts. You've got to applaud, especially the idea that we don't all have to look or act the same to succeed." — KEVIN SLOWEY

all the physical tools. Will they do what Minaya and La Russa describe, cultivating the mental side of the job and staying hungry season after season? Luckily they're being pushed from behind by a crew one year younger and maybe even more loaded.

1986: THE CREST OF THE WAVE?

It's MORE THAN a little bit premature to begin saving seats for the 2025 Hall of Fame induction. But take a look at the early pitching contenders: Felix Hernandez, Tommy Hanson, Jaime Garcia, Phil Hughes, Jair Jurriens, Johnny Cueto. McDowell



Santana

HEADSTRONG

Mike Butcher knows what he wants to see in a young pitcher. "We look for guys with power arms and a repeatable delivery that gives them command of the fastball," the Angels' pitching coach says. "Then we can develop the breaking balls and change-ups. If they're athletic and can spin the ball a little, we can clean them up when we get them on the mound." It's what Butcher can't see immediately, however, that he knows will ultimately distinguish a good young pitcher from an outstanding pro. "Confidence," he says. "They must believe they can pitch at this level."

The current Angels staff has all the elements — a fascinating combination of strong arms and strong minds. Jered Weaver, 27, added a two-seam fastball last year and is throwing more sliders, but Butcher says that his biggest improvement has been controlling his emotions instead of pitching in the moment. Joe Saunders, 29, worked out earlier and harder over the winter, determined to combat arm problems. Scott Kazmir, 26, and Butcher spent a year together with the Rays. Reunited last season in Anaheim, the pitching coach remains particularly impressed that the lefty is "mentally strong, the kind of player who wants to be on center stage." Ervin Santana, 27, was a power pitcher who has been forced by injury to learn how to throw off-speed pitches for strikes.

Each of them draws extra strength from the memory of two former Angels pitchers. In April 2009, Nick Adenhart died tragically in a car crash hours after throwing six shutout innings at age 22. John Lackey — the patriarch of the group at age 31 — departed as a free agent after the season, but his influence remains. "Young pitchers learn together as a group," Butcher says. "But there's a lot to be said for having a veteran presence. We had that with Lackey. He was a leader, he put in his time in the gym and he was a bulldog on the mound. Now I see the younger guys taking on those traits." Inspiration and perspiration will make the Angels' pitching rotation a force in the West. -CS

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says his two young aces, Hanson and Jurrjens, are remarkably similar in their approaches. "They're both able to slow the game down," the Braves' pitching coach says. "They understand the execution of one pitch at a time. I read an article years ago in which Tom Glavine was talking about Greg Maddux, saying how in each game there were going to be 10 or 15 pitches you didn't execute out of the 100 you throw, and those are going to be the determining factor in whether you win or lose. During the game, you don't know when those pitches will happen, so executing one pitch at a time is vital, because that's the only one you can control. Both of those guys, and all the young successful pitchers, are able to do that." The element of maturity at a young age comes up repeatedly when talking about today's stars. Some analysts point to good youth-baseball coaching, while others shrug and say there must have been a rare astrological alignment in 1986. Because how else do you explain Felix Hernandez?

"He has three or four swing-and-miss pitches," Magrane says in disbelief as he contemplates the Mariners' king of the hill. "Plenty of people throw 95 and it's straight and hittable, so batters get good

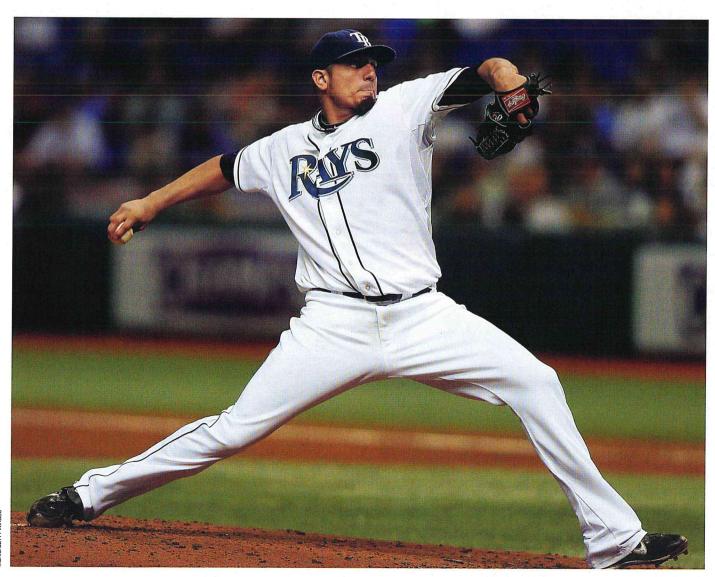
Despite his Big League success to date, Garza is still just getting started. swings. With Hernandez, everything he throws has the ability embarrass you. Plus he has an animalistic presence on the mound. He keeps coming after you, even if he's already at his 115th pitch in the ninth inning."

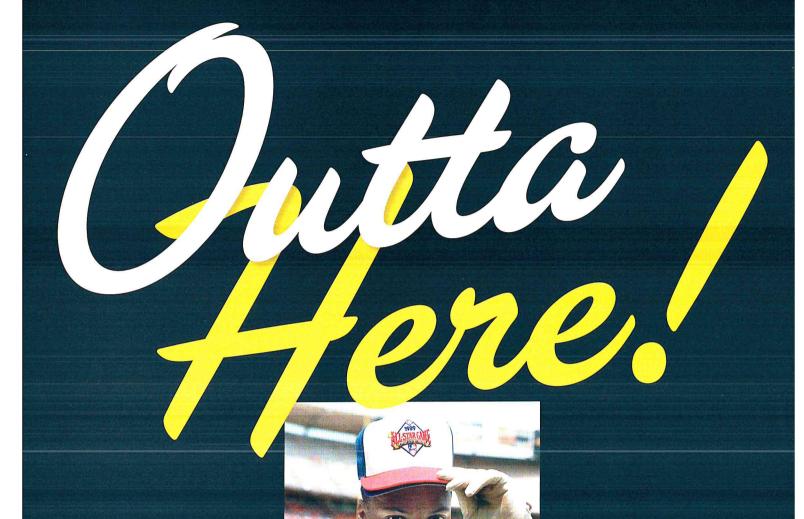
"Nasty," says Twins pitching coach Rick Anderson, smiling.

1987-88: THE BABIES OF THE BABY BOOM

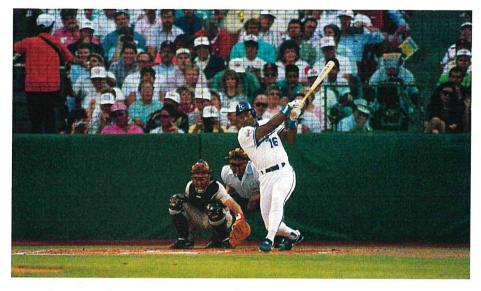
These are the guys who have the talent to win a Game 7 ... and the faces to get asked for ID at the victory party. Brian Matusz of the Orioles, Mike Leake of the Reds and Mat Latos of the Padres are too young to be this good. Until you realize that Clayton Kershaw of the Dodgers and Brett Anderson of the A's are even younger. And that they have company in fellow '88ers Aroldis Chapman and Stephen Strasburg. Their (slightly) older fraternity brothers, however, add a word of caution. "I pitched against Strasburg in Spring Training, and he has great stuff. But we'll see," Wainwright says, offering his elder perspective. "Until he does it in the Big Leagues, you never know. You never really make any big statements until someone does it here." \spadesuit

Chris Smith is a contributing editor to New York magazine.





FROM DRAMATIC GAME WINNERS
TO MAMMOTH BLASTS, THESE ARE THE
MOST MONUMENTAL HOME RUNS IN
ALL-STAR GAME HISTORY.
BY ERIC ENDERS



UNFORTUNATELY FOR THOSE BORN TOO LATE TO EXPERIENCE BO JACKSON

in his prime, it's nearly impossible to put his aura into words. Of course, that hasn't stopped people from trying. "There's something about Bo Jackson." then-Royals GM John Schuerholz said in the 1980s. "Call it mystical or magical." Former Royals teammate Frank White went even further: "You know what?" White told the Kansas City Star, "I really did play baseball with Superman." * It was almost as if Vincent Edward Jackson was the byproduct of a genetic engineering project to design the perfect ballplaying specimen. He could run faster than any player in baseball, throw harder than any player in baseball, and, above all, hit the ball farther than any player in baseball. Oh, he also took home the Heisman Trophy while playing college football at Auburn, became a media sensation thanks to his "Bo Knows" campaigns, and earned legendary status in the football video game Tecmo Bowl. "Anyone who ever saw him play will never forget him," the Star's Joe Posnanski wrote. "Every game was like a Harry Houdini performance — you expected to see something you had never seen before." * That description certainly applied to the 1989 All-Star Game at Anaheim Stadium, when Bo, batting leadoff for the first time in his career, started off the bottom of the first with a bang. Swinging at NL starter Rick Reuschel's second pitch, Jackson launched a 448-foot rocket to dead center field that, in the words of the Los Angeles Times, "punched a hole in the sky." The blast brought players from both teams scurrying off their benches to marvel at the sheer grandiosity of it. "It was what you call a towering home run," said NL center fielder Eric Davis, who watched the homer fly far over his head. "I mean, towering." * Jackson's homer kick-started the AL's eventual 5-3 victory, and he was named All-Star Game MVP. But as usual, Bo was considerably less impressed by his own exploits than others were. "I got a piece of it," he demurred. *\pi\ Of course, Jackson hardly stands alone in hitting an epic home run in the All-Star Game. From the very first All-Star homer (hit by Babe Ruth in 1933) to the most recent one (by J.D. Drew in 2008), there have been some memorable midsummer clouts over the years. Here's a look at a few more ...

The 1989 All-Star Game, played in Anaheim, saw Jackson hit a towering leadoff homer for the AL.



STAN MUSIAL

Milwaukee County Stadium, Milwaukee, 1955

STAN MUSIAL WAS nearly as good a ballplayer as Babe Ruth in many ways, but the unassuming "Man" from Pennsylvania's coal mining country

never quite had the Bambino's sense of showmanship. Like Ruth, Musial had no problem calling his shot on a dramatic home run — he just preferred to do it a little more privately. When Stan "the Man" stepped up to the plate with the score tied in the 12th inning of the 1955 All-Star Game in Milwaukee, he inquired of catcher Yogi Berra, "How ya doing, Yogi?" Berra replied that the extra innings were killing his feet. Retorted Musial, "Don't worry, I'll get us out of here in a hurry."

He certainly did, swinging at the first pitch he saw and launching it into County Stadium's right-field bleachers for a walk-off home run. And it wasn't just Berra who had witnessed Musial call his shot — so did Hank Aaron, then a 21-year-old sophomore playing in his first Midsummer Classic. "I know a lot say Babe Ruth pointed, but I *know* Stan called his," Aaron later recalled. "I remember him standing up and saying, 'They don't pay us to play overtime.' And he went up and hit a home run."

FRED LYNN Comiskey Park, Chicago, 1983

ABOUT ONE OUT of every 40 Major League home runs hit in 2009 was a grand slam. Yet entering 1983, nearly three times that many longballs — 118 — had been hit in All-Star Games, with nary a slam among them. That is, until Fred Lynn stepped up to the plate in the third inning. Lynn's American League squad was already leading, 5-1, when he powered a hanging slider from

Musial (top, far left) and Williams (center) after walk-off home runs in 1955 and 1941, respectively. Lynn in 1983.



The 2010 All-Star Game marks the third played at Angel Stadium, which has undoubtedly made its mark on Midsummer Classic history. In 1967, just a year after the stadium was built, 21 future Hall of Famers converged in Anaheim for the first All-Star Game ever played on prime-time television, and the nation saw a nail-biter that was, at the time, the longest Midsummer Classic ever played.



Despite having batted in the cleanup spot for arguably the greatest team of all time and having hit a dramatic homer in Game 7 of the World Series, Hall of Famer Tony Perez once said the greatest charge of his career was the 15th-inning home run that won the 1967 Midsummer Classic for the National League. "That had to be my biggest thrill," he told the *Pittsburgh*

Perez went deep in the 15th in 1967.

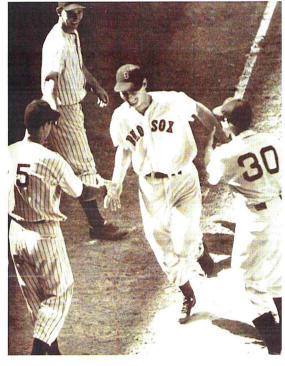
Post-Gazette in 1989. "It's the one I remember most."

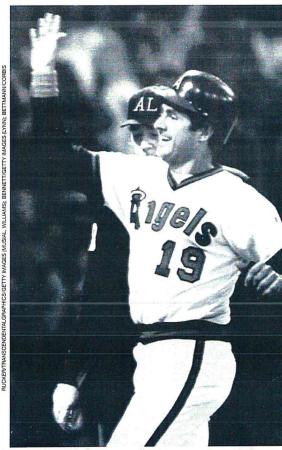
Perez, a young third baseman in his third Major League season, entered as a defensive replacement in the 10th

inning. In the 15th he faced Catfish Hunter, who was pitching his fifth inning of relief for the AL. Hunter tried to sneak a fastball past Perez, but the Cuban slugger belted it over the left-field fence for the go-ahead run. "It was like a dream," he recalled.

In 1989 another young slugger, Bo Jackson, would deliver a memorable homer to lead his team to victory in Anaheim. In that game, Indians closer Doug Jones saved the Junior Circuit's bacon by retiring Tim Wallach in the eighth inning with the tying runs on base. With two such thrilling All-Star Games in its past, Angel Stadium seems primed for a three-peat in 2010. —EE









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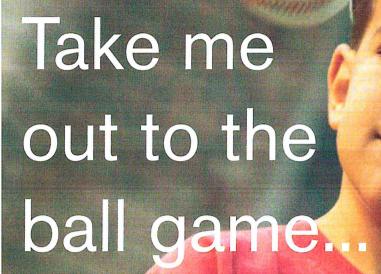
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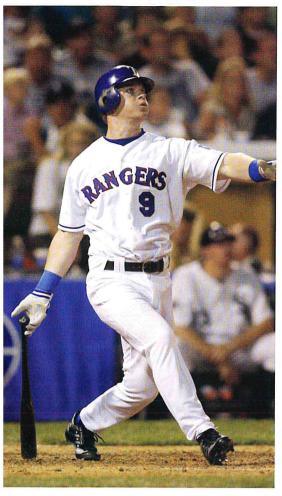


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beleaguered NL hurler Atlee Hammaker into Comiskey Park's right-field bleachers for what is still the only grand slam in the 77-year history of the Midsummer Classic.

"Those games meant a lot to the players," Lynn told Baseball Digest. "I had a lot of fond memories, especially in Comiskey Park when I hit the grand slam. Not only because I hit the grand slam — that wasn't the deal — it was because we won. When we won in '83, we broke the [NL's] streak (11 straight wins). Ever since then, the American League has dominated."

TED WILLIAMS Forway Park, Boston, 1946
FOR PITCHER RIP Sewell — as well as for the United States — Dec. 7, 1941, is a date that will live in infamy. Pearl Harbor Day is also the day Sewell's legs and feet got shot to shreds when a hunter mistook him for a deer. Forced to overhaul his delivery as a result of the accident, the right-hander came upon the idea for the Eephus ball, the most famous trick pitch in baseball history. Blooping high in the air like a slow-pitch softball offering, the Eephus enabled Sewell to win 70 games with a 3.24 ERA from 1942-45.

"How he controlled it is anybody's guess," Ted Williams later wrote. "It had a 20-foot-high arc. I remember watching him warm up, standing in the dugout with Bill Dickey, and saying to Dickey, 'Gee, I don't think you could ever generate enough power to hit that pitch out of the ballpark.' Nobody ever had."

Dickey advised Williams that the best approach might be a moving start, and in the 1946 All-Star Game, Williams tried exactly that, approaching the offering as a slow-pitch softball hitter would. After building momentum with a couple of quick steps toward the mound, Williams timed it and swung with all

his might. "He hit it right out of there," Sewell said. "And I mean he bit it." The clout paved the way for a 12-0 AL win, and Williams remains the only Big Leaguer ever to hit Sewell's Eephus for a homer.

HANK BLALOCK U.S. Cellular Field, Chicago, 2003

As THE FIRST All-Star Game to determine home-field advantage in the World Series, the 2003 contest was marketed

From top: Blalock

took Gagne deep in

towering shot in '71.

Jackson hit a

"GUYS ON THE BENCH SAID REGGIE HIT IT SO HARD THEY COULD FEEL THE TREMORS IN THEIR CHEST, THE WAY YOU CAN WHEN SOMEONE WITH SPEAKERS BLASTING PULLS UP NEXT TO YOU AT A STOP LIGHT."—JOE POSNANSKI

with the slogan "This Time It Counts." It was a good thing for Dodgers closer Eric Gagne, however, that it didn't count in the stat sheet. Gagne, in the midst of a remarkable streak of perfection that would eventually reach 84 consecutive saves, managed to blow his only save opportunity over a 22-month period in, of all games, the Midsummer Classic.

Oddly, perhaps, NL skipper Dusty Baker decided to use baseball's best closer as a set-up man for veteran ace-turned-closer John Smoltz in the All-Star Game. Facing Texas's Hank Blalock in the eighth inning, Gagne served up a mammoth two-run bomb that turned the NL's one-run lead into a onerun deficit. Reluctant to throw inside because of a beanball suffered by Edgar Martinez earlier in the game, Gagne instead tossed a belt-high fastball that provided the highlight of Blalock's career and gave the Yankees home-field

advantage in the Fall Classic. "I wanted to throw a strike," Gagne said, "but I threw it right down the middle, maybe a bit too high."

2003, Callison was JOHNNY CALLISON Shea Stadium, New York, 1964 the 1964 hero, and

WITH THE AL carrying a slim 4-3 lead into the bottom of the ninth in the 1964 All-Star Game, there was no



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better man to have on the mound than the Red Sox's Dick Radatz. the most dominant reliever of the era. But the 6-foot-6 flamethrower became flustered when he believed

that he had struck out Willie Mays on a nasty slider, only to see the pitch called a ball. Radatz became even more distracted when Mays, who ended up reaching first, wreaked havoc on the bases, stealing second and scoring the tying run on a bloop single.

After Hank Aaron struck out, it was up to 25-year-old Johnny Callison to be the NL hero. The Phillies slugger offered at a Radatz fastball that was just inches above the dirt, pulling a low, vicious line drive down the right-field line at Shea Stadium. It stayed fair for a walk-off three-run shot. "That homer was the greatest thrill of my life," Callison told The Morning Call in 1996. "Stayed fair by 10 feet. I floated around the bases."

REGGIE JACKSON Tiger Stadium, Detroit, 1971

FITTINGLY FOR SUCH a controversial player, the longest home run of Reggie Jackson's career has been subject to a decadeslong debate between fans and physicists. Witnesses have steadily insisted that Jackson's famed blast during the 1971 All-Star Game was still rising when it struck a transformer on Tiger Stadium's roof. Scientists, however, assert that such a feat is physically impossible. Regardless, there was little doubt that Jackson's stunning clout off Pittsburgh's Dock Ellis was the longest anyone in attendance had ever seen.

"Guys on the bench said Reggie hit it so hard they could feel the tremors in their chest, the way you can when someone with speakers blasting pulls up next to you at a stop light," columnist Joe Posnanski wrote of Jackson's longball. According to calculations by physics professor Scott Schneider, the ball would have traveled 510 feet if it hadn't struck the transformer. "It's the longest one I've ever seen," AL teammate Norm Cash marveled.

TED WILLIAMS Briggs Stadium, Detroit, 1941

THE GAME SHOULD have been over already. With one out in the bottom of the ninth, Joe DiMaggio - who entered the break with a 48-game hitting streak — grounded into what seemed like a game-ending double play. But DiMaggio, hustling as always, beat out the throw by an eyelash. Trailing, 5-4, the American League would have one more shot to win the game. Fortunately for the Junior Circuit, it was Ted Williams' turn at bat.

Cubs pitcher Claude Passeau, who had whiffed Teddy Ballgame an inning earlier, "came in with that sliding fastball around my belt and I swung," Williams wrote in his autobiography. "No cut-down protection swing, an all-out home run swing, probably with my eyes shut." The ball flew majestically into the right-field stands at Briggs Stadium for a walk-off homer, and Williams who even at 22 had a reputation as a grouch — celebrated like a school kid, clapping his hands and jumping for joy.

Williams was carried off the field by DiMaggio and AL starting pitcher Bob Feller, who, having already showered, raced onto the field in his civvies to celebrate. Nearly seven decades later, the homer remains the most dramatic in All-Star annals, and the signature moment in the career of one of the best hitters who ever lived. "I've never been so happy," Williams wrote. "It was a wonderful, wonderful day."

Eric Enders is a freelance writer and baseball historian.

FIRST, LAST AND ONLY

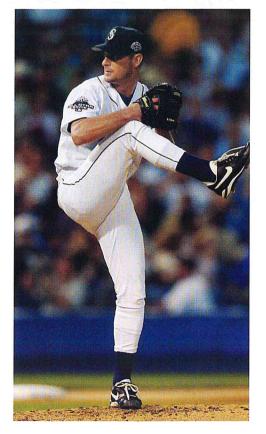
Bo Jackson's prodigious clout in 1989 came on the first swing of his All-Star career. What nobody knew, however, is that after he struck out six innings later, he would never play in the All-Star Game again. Derailed by an awful hip injury suffered in a 1991 NFL playoff game, Jackson retired from baseball in 1994 after failing to regain his form.

Jackson wasn't the only big name who enjoyed the All-Star glitz and glamour just once. Solid players like Jay Buhner, Brett Butler and Kent Hrbek, each with a long and productive Major League career, were also named to just one Midsummer Classic roster. Ageless hurlers Charlie Hough and Jamie Moyer also made it just one time each, in their 14th and 17th seasons, respectively. Hough's lone turn came at age 38 in 1986, while in 2003, the 40-year-old Moyer became the oldest first-time All-Star since Satchel Paige was named to his first team in 1952, at age 46. Tim Wakefield joined them when he made his All-Star debut in 2009. "It was an experience I'll never forget the rest of my life and I'll cherish it forever," Wakefield told MLB.com. "Being able to partake in my first All-Star Game at 42 years old. That's pretty cool."

In addition to those steady yet overlooked stars, there's another group of players who were All-Stars just once — those whose careers, like Jackson's, were forestalled by injury or tragedy. In 1980, Astros flamethrower J.R. Richard was felled by a stroke just three weeks after starting for the NL in the All-Star Game. Remarkably, despite three previous top-10 Cy Young finishes, 1980 had been Richard's first All-Star selection. Four years later the career of another Astro, promising shortstop Dickie Thon, was derailed by a fastball to the face nine months after his All-Star debut. And perhaps most famously, there was the tragedy of Tony Conigliaro, the youngest AL player ever to reach 100 career homers. On Aug. 18, 1967, just a month after an All-Star debut in which he went 0 for 6, Conigliaro

suffered a horrific beaning. He returned to the Majors two years later, but never approached All-Star level again. -EE

Moyer was an All-Star in 2003.



































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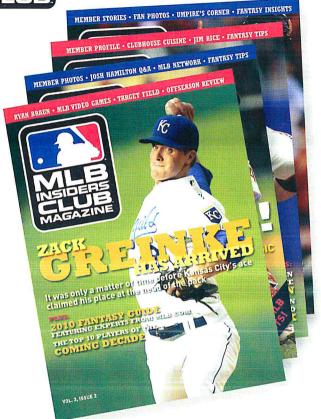
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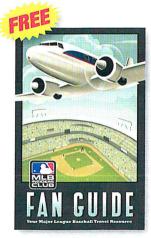


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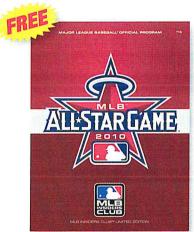
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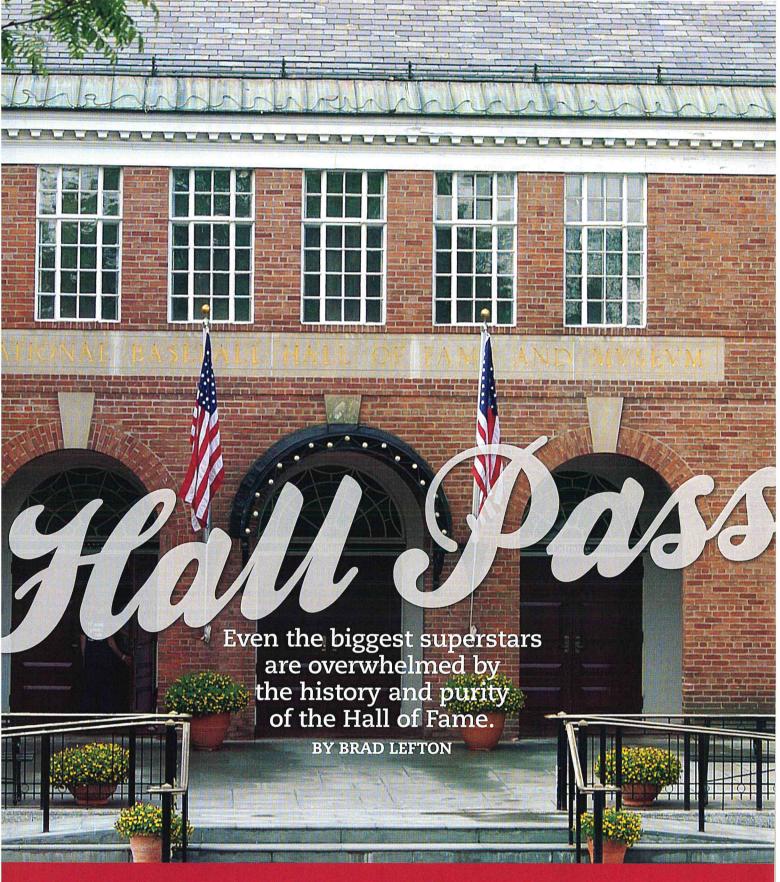


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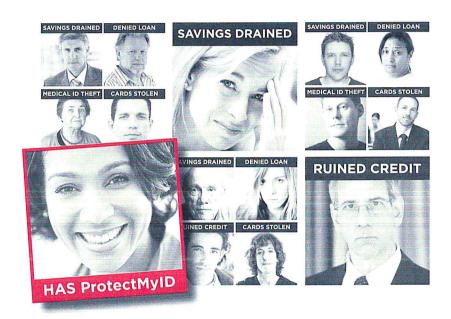
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Thirty minutes before a Spring Training game in March, a jarring burst of red suddenly upset the black and orange tones of the San Francisco Giants' clubhouse as the Angels' Torii Hunter came sauntering through. Such pregame fraternizing is generally taboo in the Majors, but this was an exhibition game and Hunter wasn't there to chum it up with his opponents anyway. He was there to honor baseball's history. ¶ Seated at a small



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Hall Pass

round table near the entrance to the clubhouse, Hall of Famer Willie Mays was holding court. "I'm here to see my man," Hunter proclaimed with an ear-to-ear grin as he hugged the greatest of Giants greats. The pair of center fielders sat and yukked it up for several minutes, Hunter thoroughly savoring his unplanned meeting with a living legend, and then, just as quickly, he excused himself to continue preparing for the game.

While Hunter has been working to create history with nine Gold Gloves, he respects the game's past even more. So much so, in fact, that he has gone far beyond just the other side of the field to embrace baseball's past; he has made the ultimate pilgrimage to Cooperstown. Hunter is one of a handful of active players who have made a point to visit the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in upstate New York.

"Just walking through there, man, it was like, 'Wow!' You feel all the history. You can just feel it," Hunter beams. "Walking around and looking at all that stuff, I got this visual of me playing catch with my grandad. I saw Jackie Robinson's stuff; I saw Satchel Paige's stuff and I was like 'Man, I remember my grandad telling me about these guys.' We'd be sitting on the porch watching a game. He'd put the TV right there by the window, and we'd watch the game and just talk baseball. You can walk through the museum and look at all the stuff, but at the same time, you got a video playing in your head with your grandaddy talking about all of it. It's pretty cool, man — pretty cool."

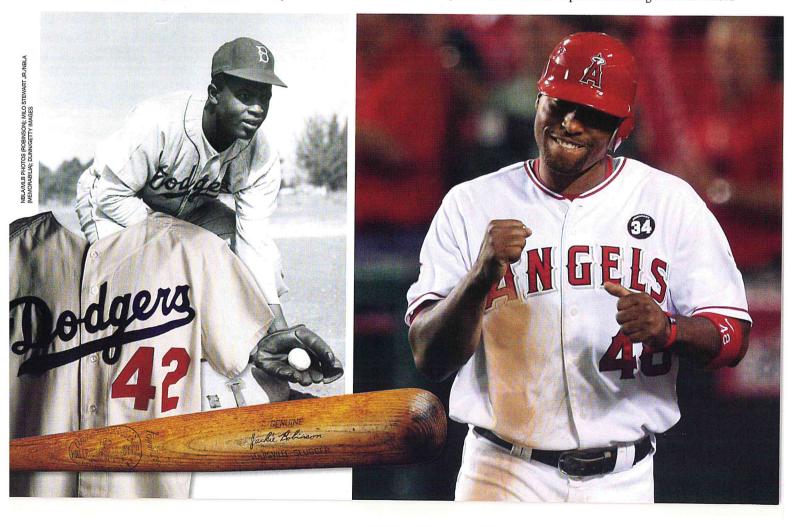
The Mariners' Ichiro Suzuki has visited the Hall during four of his nine offseasons in America. While names such as Mays, Robinson and Paige weren't part of his childhood, Cooperstown still provides a meaningful connection to his youth. "Living in this era where money is disproportionately emphasized, there's a real danger of losing the purity that originally attracted us to baseball," Ichiro sagely cautions. "The love for the game that motivated us once upon a time can get forgotten as baseball becomes an occupation. You would expect our affection for the game to grow as we live out our dreams on the field, but instead, we're pushed to focus on the occupational aspects. Cooperstown has a way of cleansing your heart. It allows you to rediscover the purity that originally attracted you to baseball. I feel that every time I visit, and that's what makes me want to return. It's a special place."

BUT ICHIRO HAD to experience Cooperstown once before he could appreciate all of that. He actually turned down the Hall's initial request that he donate the bat he used on Sept. 29, 2001, to break Shoeless Joe Jackson's 1911 record of 233 hits by a rookie. He would regret the decision when he walked through the Hall's doors for the first time two months later.

"At the time, I had no idea if I would ever set another record in America, so naturally, I wanted to hold on to the bat myself," Ichiro recalls. "But once I experienced Cooperstown's magic firsthand and fully understood their mission, I regretted my reticence. Ever since, whenever they approach me for something.

I'm honored to donate."

Hunter (right) took special note of the Jackie Robinson exhibits during his visit to Cooperstown. Ichiro has donated 17 items in nine seasons, the most among active Major Leaguers. The bat, batting gloves, wristbands, spikes, sunglasses and elbow guard he used to produce his single-season record



Hall Pass

262nd hit of the 2004 season are among them. He also donated the ball he hit for the first inside-the-park home run in All-Star Game history in 2007 and the jersey he wore when he achieved a record ninth straight season of 200 hits in 2009.

Perhaps the experience that most profoundly swayed him

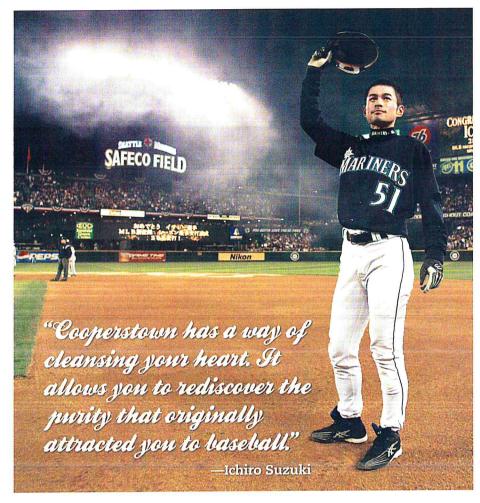
during that initial visit came when he was presented with a pair of white gloves. After putting them on, a game-used bat of Shoeless Joe's was placed in Ichiro's hands.

It was the fabled "Black Betsy," quite possibly the most famous bat in baseball history. It had produced a record that stood for 80 years until Ichiro broke it.

Ichiro scrutinized the instrument's craftsmanship. He grasped the handle with his right hand and held the bat erect, raising the barrel to his ear. With the palm of his left hand, he tapped the barrel and then closely positioned his ear to capture the sound. As the pitch resonated, his eyes widened and his smile broadened. The tightness of the wood used in the model, likely virgin, produced a sound he called the most beautiful he had ever heard. "I was overwhelmed by the high-pitch sound that resonated from that bat," he recalls. "I was so surprised a bat could even produce such a beautiful sound. It was as if it were made of solid gold or silver, not wood."

Until that moment, Shoeless Joe was merely some murky character from yestervear who had a dusty old record that researchers told Ichiro he broke. Ichiro left town with a tangible connection to one of the game's legends - and a newfound appreciation for the Hall of Fame.

TWINS MANAGER RON Gardenhire had long yearned to enjoy a similar experience. He's such a fan of baseball history that he used to lug around a volume of The Baseball Encyclopedia in his equipment bag when he played for the Mets in the early 1980s. He loved reading the stats, but he had another purpose.



Tokens of Affection

Enshrined in Cooperstown are 292 of the game's most lauded players, managers, umpires and executives. But more than that, the Hall boasts

some of baseball's most treasured artifacts, donated by players, teams and fans alike. There's the baseball that broke Hank Aaron's record when Barry Bonds launched it out of AT&T Park for his 756th longball. There's another baseball — this one inscribed by Cal Ripken Jr. — from the game that spawned his consecutive games streak on May 30, 1982. There are jerseys, too, worn by David Cone in his 1999 perfect game and by Pedro Martinez in that year's All-Star Game, to name a couple.

World Series paraphernalia also abounds at the Hall of Fame. Last year's Fall Classic MVP Hideki Matsui contributed the bat he used to amass six RBI in Game 6, while Chase Utley relinquished the stick with which he tied the Series home run record.

Cooperstown has already received its fair share of artifacts from the 2010 season, as Jose Reyes and Jason Kubel both made donations of game-used memorabilia. Reyes donated his batting gloves

> from the 20-inning Mets-Cardinals game on April 17, the fourth-longest in National League history at 6 hours and 53 minutes. Kubel sent over the lumber that christened Target Field with its first home run.

Several women are also represented in the historic halls. Norma Metrolis, who played catcher in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League from 1946-50, recently bequeathed numerous items, including photographs, schedules and a contract from her stint with the South Bend Blue Sox. A scorecard from Suzyn Waldman's radio broadcast of Game 6 of the 2009 World Series is also on display in Cooperstown, as she became the first woman to broadcast a Fall Classic game. —Allison Duffy







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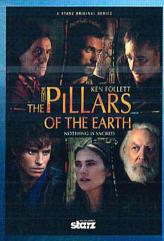




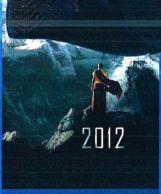
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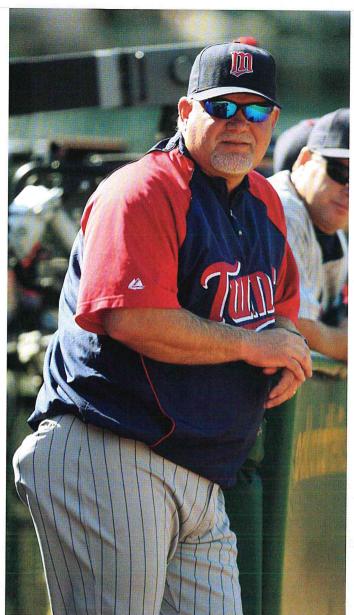
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Hall Pass

"I used to get autographs," Gardenhire happily confesses. "Really. I'd just ask players if I could bring my book over and have them sign it, right there on their page where their stats are. I made sure I got the autographs myself. I wouldn't send the book with somebody else to get them. I wanted to do it because I wanted to meet them myself."

He met Yogi Berra, Johnny Bench, Willie Mays and many other greats that way. He still cherishes the book, which he estimates has 500 signatures; he's keeping it for his son, Toby, a catcher in the Twins' farm system.

Gardenhire actually had been to Cooperstown once for the annual Hall of Fame Game as a player and coach, but never to the Museum. With the contest squeezed into an off day during the regular season, there just didn't seem to be time.

Then, in June 2004, he returned to the Hall of Fame Game, this time with a little more authority as manager of the Twins.

"I said, 'I'm in charge and I'm going to see this doggone thing," Gardenhire smiles, remembering how he finally fulfilled his dream. His smile grew when he described his biggest thrill, holding the great White Sox second baseman Nellie Fox's bat.

"As a little kid, I always got Nellie Fox bats. They had the big, thick handles with Fox's signature. At Cooperstown, I finally got to actually feel one of those big thick things and it was true. It was just like the Little League bats we'd had as kids, which were smaller of course (but had the same proportions). I remember holding it and thinking, 'Wow, I used one of these when I was a little kid.' It was really special and really, really cool."

But the true delight for this lover of baseball history was seeing how the museum affected his players; he had used his managerial authority to make touring the Museum mandatory for the entire team as soon as it arrived late that Sunday night.

"I think it's important to be able to experience that as a group," Gardenhire says. "They kept it open for us, which was really special. No one else was in there. Too many players don't really know about the history of the game. Some guys, you ask them who Mickey Mantle was and they look at you like they have no clue, and you're like, 'Come on, you've got to know who Mickey Mantle was.' There was a little hemming and hawing at first from some guys who didn't want to go, but once they got in there, their eyes were glued just reading the stuff. I think every one of them enjoyed the living fire out of it because it was really amazing. It's our history. It's what we are. It's what we do."

HUNTER WAS ON that Twins team. "You know us athletes — when we get together, everybody can be loud and just want to have fun," he says, describing the bus ride over. "But when we walked through the doors that night, everybody suddenly became quiet. No pushing and shoving. It was all respect. We were amazed at everything. You could just feel the history; you could feel the spirits of the old-time players waddling through you."

One of those spirits belonged to Jackie Robinson. Hunter was so entranced by his grandfather's endless stories about Robinson on that porch during his youth in Pine Bluff, Ark., that he wrote

Gardenhire (top) cherishes his memories of Mays (middle, sliding) and Bench, but he helped that history come to life for his players when he mandated that the club tour the Hall during a visit to Cooperstown.



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Hall Pass

an essay on the player in high school. Robinson died nearly three years before he was born, though, so until visiting Cooperstown, Hunter could only rely on hearsay to appreciate his hero.

"When I saw the jersey that he wore, I said to myself, 'His skin touched this jersey," Hunter recalls. "That's the closest I'm ever going to get to Jackie Robinson, and it's all because of the Hall of Fame. When I read about him or see him on TV, it's different than having his actual game-worn jersey right there in front of you. You can't believe you're this close to something he actually touched. He's never touched my book, he's never touched my TV, but he touched this jersey. It's totally different."

Joe Mauer was a 21-year-old rookie who had played in just his 12th Big League game earlier that day. Now he was touring the Baseball Hall of Fame with the Twins and, like Hunter, his grandfather was in his thoughts.

"I remember holding a Ted Williams bat. That was a really neat thing," Mauer says. "I was always a big fan of Ted Williams

because he was my grandpa's favorite player. I had a real close relationship with my grandpa growing up. He'd always talk about Ted Williams. We got to do a lot of neat stuff in there, but holding Ted Williams' bat probably meant a little more because he was my grandpa's favorite."

MAUER'S TEAMMATE JIM Thome actually had the foresight to plan his Cooperstown trip with the person it was most likely to remind him of — his father, Chuck. Their excursion was the ultimate father-and-son dream. Together, they hand-delivered Thome's 500th home run ball after he became the 23rd player in history to achieve the milestone on Sept. 16, 2007, while playing for the White Sox.

"That one day of father-and-son enjoyment was important," Thome says. "Hopefully, I'll get to share it with my son and daughter someday and I can feel what my dad felt. To share it with my dad was a very special thing."

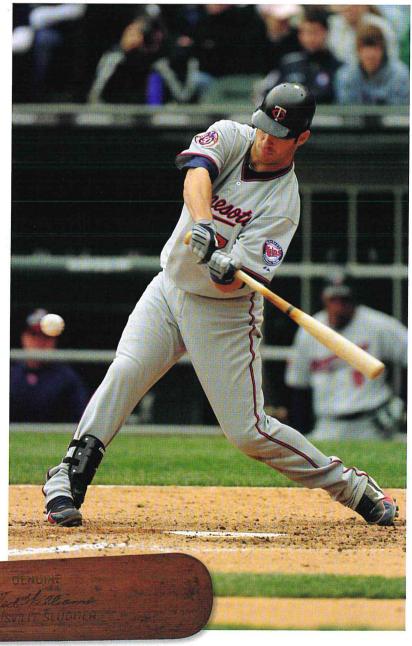
It almost didn't happen. Cooperstown's remote location — about 190 miles northwest of Manhattan, near Albany — makes access a bit challenging. Thome hoped to deliver the historic ball with his dad in the winter soon after he hit it, but snowstorms around Cooperstown twice canceled their plans. Undeterred, Thome finally found a way to reach baseball's Mecca with his dad and the ball by flying in on an off day during the 2008 season.

In a peculiar way, all of the added effort made the journey even more satisfying.

That part of Cooperstown's appeal is understood best by frequent visitor Ichiro.

Williams' bat made Mauer (right) think of his grandfather. "It's analogous to the All-Star Game," the nine-time All-Star explains in his unique manner. "When you reflect back on it, it's an experience that's over in an instant. But that's the essence of why the effort to experience it is so worthwhile. If it was right there at an arm's distance, the exhilaration of the journey would be nonexistent. There's a beauty in that quality. It's like the cherry blossoms in Japan. They bloom for only a week or so every year, so there's an aura that's attached to them. By virtue of its location, Cooperstown has the same aura — far enough away that you are able to appreciate the journey, yet not too distant to be burdened by it. For me, that's a very important part of its charm and makes visiting there so invigorating over and over again." •

Brad Lefton is a St. Louis-based journalist who covers baseball in Japan and America. He often follows MLB for Japanese media and he interviewed Ichiro in Japanese for this article.





From Latin America to Asia and Europe in between, Big League scouts compete to land prospects from the most far-flung of places.

BY MICHAEL BRADLEY PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY C.J. BURTON

DELIVERING THE MANAGERING THE

Eunice, La., to be exact. "The GPS didn't even know where it was," Bane says.

As scouting director of the Angels and someone who has been in the business for nearly 30 years, Bane knows that Eunice is a metropolis when compared to some of the backwater places he has passed through while searching for hidden Big League talent. And it might as well be as bustling as Manhattan's Park Avenue when it comes to the gold mine Bane and the Angels have been working hard in recent years: Latin America.

Treasures discovered by Bane and his staff can be found up and down the Angels' roster. Ervin Santana is a strong starter who has already appeared in an All-Star Game. Erick Aybar has become a valuable shortstop. And Kendry Morales, despite his unfortunate injury in May, still has superstar potential.

"He's the best hitter to come out of Cuba since [former Twins All-Star] Tony Oliva," Bane says.

It took plenty of old-fashioned scouting work for the Angels to land Santana and Aybar. But it was nothing compared to the effort required in Morales's case. Of course, since Morales was the one who had to sit in a boat for nearly four hours on his daring escape from Cuba, one might argue that the work put in by Bane and his staff was fun and games in comparison.

Bane first saw Morales — then a member of the Cuban national team — play in the late 1990s, but the overprotective Cuban baseball officials didn't make it easy for Bane to keep in touch. Even with just a fleeting glimpse, Bane liked what he saw and made sure to be in attendance at Morales's first audition for scouts after he defected in 2004. Charlie Romero, who has been with the franchise for 22 years and oversees the Angels' baseball academy in the

Dominican Republic, also attended. When it came time to sign Morales, Bane negotiated the contract. Romero did the rest.

"He was the biggest help to me on Kendry," Bane says. "He handled the embassy. He worked all the loopholes. After 9/11, things were different for players who defected."

Unlike dealings with American prospects, who enter the U.S. professional ranks through the draft, international scouting and development has something of a Wild West feel to it. There is no draft. There are no limits on how many times a scout can visit a player. In some ways, it's like the old days, when local bird dogs would camp out in front of a prospect's home, contract in hand, waiting to get the jump on the competition. Baseball is more sophisticated than ever these days, but when it comes to locating players outside the U.S., some things haven't changed too much.

"It's like old-time scouting," Bane says. "You read in books about people waiting on the doorstep of Mickey Mantle to sign him, and that's what this is like. There's no draft. It's wide open. If you want to spend some money and do some work, you can be successful."

DESPITE THE OLD-SCHOOL feeling to the process, Big League teams' approaches to locating international talent are anything but dated. During the past decade, the commitment to building facilities, adding staff, and increasing the amount paid in contracts and bonuses shows just how serious this business has become. For decades, teams would have a scout or two trolling the Caribbean — maybe a couple of established "academies" to train the young prospects they signed. But nothing like the full-on effort to explore the world — particularly Latin America — that there is today.

"I would say definitely in the last five to 10 years, we have ramped up our total commitment and resources to the international area in

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MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PROUDLY SUPPORTS STAND UP TO CANCER



DELIVERING THE WORLD

Latin America and Asia," says John Mirabelli, Cleveland's assistant GM of scouting. "For us, like about 20 of the 30 teams who are similar to us, we have to *find* players. We have to get away from MLB free agency. In the international area, you have to be good. You have to mine the area."

For the most part, the young players signed by teams in other parts of the world are reasonably priced and have the potential to outperform their initial contracts. Although the Angels gave Morales a six-year, \$4.5 million contract (with a \$3 million bonus) in 2004, that annual \$750,000 budget item looked pretty reasonable when Morales hit .306 with 34 homers and 108 RBI last season.

Morales represents one of the more expensive signings. For each player who commands a big bonus, there are dozens who are signed to bargain basement contracts as 16-year-olds and develop into productive MLB players. When one of them becomes a star, the hard work and long hours in foreign lands pay off. "If you work, you can be successful," says Albert Gonzalez, Florida's director of international operations. "That's the word — work."

ALTHOUGH THE SUCCESS of players like Hideki Matsui and Daisuke Matsuzaka has shown Major League franchises just how valuable efforts to sign players in Asia can be, and increased television coverage of Big League games in places like Japan has helped interest there grow, as well, the majority of teams concentrate their scouting efforts in Latin America, specifically the Dominican Republic and Venezuela.

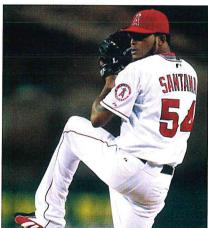
"You fish where there's fish," says Gonzalez, whose parents came to the U.S. from Cuba in 1962. "There is an abundance of players in the Dominican Republic and Venezuela. We figured, 'Let's be strong in that area and go from there." And it's tough to keep any good fishing hole secret — everybody is casting into the bountiful Dominican waters. "When you fly into Santo Domingo, more than half the time another scout is on the plane with you," Bane says.

For decades, no top Japanese players would leave the leagues in the Far East — on the contrary, Americans were going over there — and the rest of Asia had not developed its talent enough to make it attractive to Major League teams. Today, players like Shin-Soo Choo and Chan Ho Park have come here from Korea to play, as has Taiwan product Chien-Ming Wang. But the fact remains that the Korean and Taiwan infrastructures are not sufficiently constructed to provide a free-flowing pipeline, and the better Japanese prospects remain in that country and serve the teams there until they mature.

The latest source of talent is Europe. The World Baseball Classic has helped generate interest in the land where soccer is still king. Don't expect a rush of Eurotalent in the next few years, but don't be surprised if MLB's efforts there produce players down the line. Remember that as recently as the late 1980s, the idea that Europeans could play NBA basketball was considered absurd, and now Europe is producing loads of All-Star hoops players.

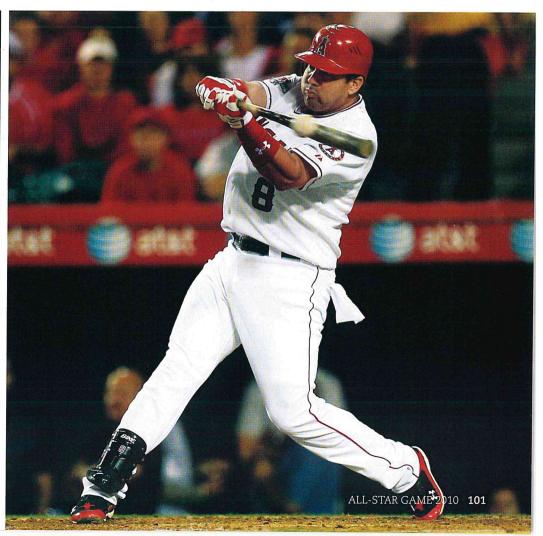
"That market is starting to ramp up," Mirabelli says.

No matter how much money or time MLB and its teams spend in Europe and Asia, Latin America should be the main international

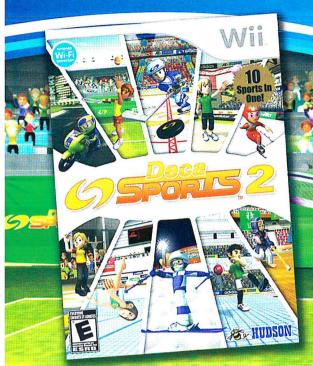




International scouts have found talents like Santana (top left) in the Dominican, Morales (right) in Cuba and Choo in Korea.



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market for years to come. "People have really upgraded their investments in facilities down there," Mirabelli says. "There is modern equipment and plenty of support for the development of players."

Orioles Director of International Scouting John Stockstill says that about 27 franchises now have a complex in the Dominican.

The infrastructure allows clubs to centralize the training of players they sign and pit their signees against the other clubs' young talent in summer leagues. Most academies operate 10 months a year, and the relative proximity of the complexes — Stockstill reports 14 are within just a 15-mile radius of one another — allows for easy access to competition. But that doesn't mean all the talent comes to them. "You still have to spread out all over the island and have tryout camps," Stockstill says. "The scouts we send love it. They can sign four players in a week. In the U.S., with the draft, a scout can go five years without having one of the players he has recommended get drafted."

WHETHER A TEAM signs someone from the Dominican, Venezuela or another Caribbean spot, there is a need to teach more than just the game. For a sheltered 16-year-old, hitting a baseball is one thing, but learning how to live on your own in a strange land is quite another. And the adjustment will only get harder if he can make it to the States to play.

"We have an English program incorporated into our life skills program," Gonzalez says. "The

hardest thing to conquer is the language and cultural barrier. Even though some kids are talented, they may not even eat when they get to America, because they are so embarrassed that they can't speak the language. You can't survive on the diamond like that."

Plus, the "freedoms" that Americans enjoy mean something else to young men who come to the country after living in poverty. "They think they can do whatever they want, because we're 'free," Gonzalez says. "Where they live, now that's a free country. There are no open-container laws, no cell phone laws. They have to learn

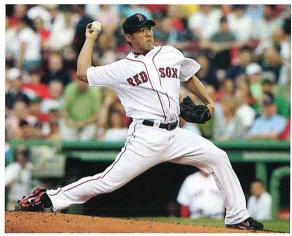
that there are rules and laws here."

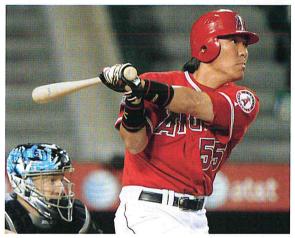
For years, there has been talk of starting a draft that extends beyond U.S. borders. It would end bidding wars for top talent, centralize the process of identifying players, and end the practice of teams hiding 15-yearolds until they're old enough to sign. But such a draft would be tough to administer. First, it's never easy to verify ages of foreign players, and if you could, there would be a uniformity problem. For years, 16-year-olds have been signed in Latin America. In Australia, 17-year-olds are eligible. And in the U.S., a player must be 18 to be drafted in most cases.

Stockstill thinks one way to slow the growth of payouts is to install a salary cap of sorts on international signings. "Set a fixed amount that you can spend on prospects," he says. "You can use it on one guy or 100."

For now, teams continue to build facilities and devote more resources to Latin America, Asia and Europe.

"If there were an international draft, what would happen to all the infrastructure?" Mirabelli asks. "Would you need all of this?" Maybe not. But, right now, you do. A worldwide system of controlled chaos, engineered by the thrill of prospect, remains the filter for much of the sport's talent. •





In recent years, Japan's pro leagues have produced Matsuzaka (top) and Matsui.

Michael Bradley is a freelance writer based in suburban Philadelphia.

MELTING POT

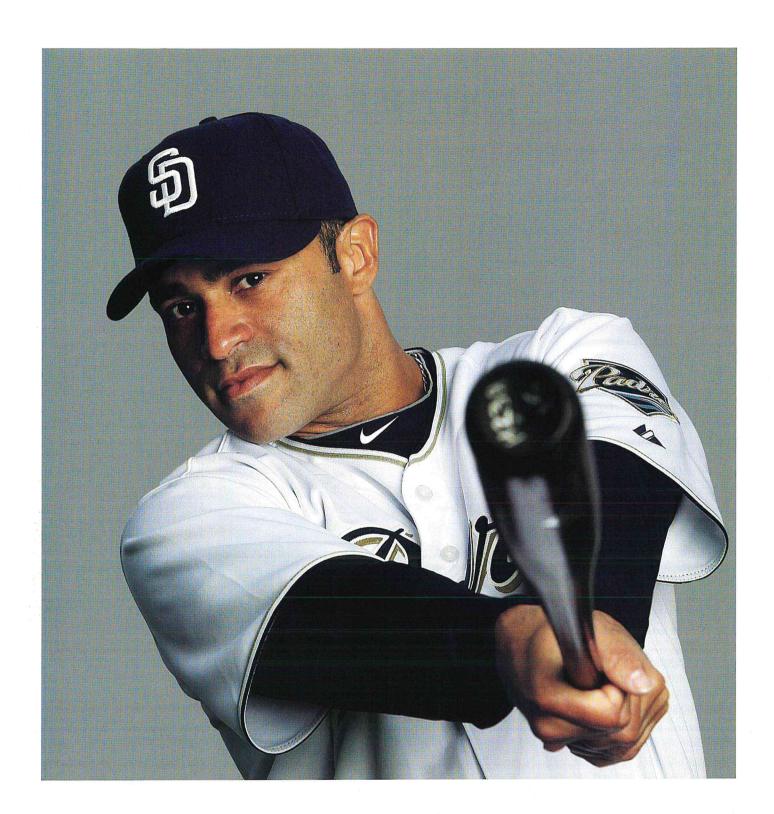


BROTHER ACT

Baseball has been bringing families together for a long time. For some of them, it just so happened to be in uniform.

BY JODIE JORDAN





S SCOTT HAIRSTON RAN OUT A HOMER AGAINST THE Brewers on April 30, he might as well have been jogging across a pine-needle-laden backyard with Frisbees as bases and the neighborhood watching. The shot, which came with one out in the seventh and cushioned what had been a one-run Padres' lead, did have bigger consequences than a kids' pick-up ballgame, but there

was one constant: Scott's big brother was waiting for him at home. Jerry Jr., who had scored on the homer, waited as the younger Hairston made his way down the third-base line, and gave him a two-handed highfive before the pair retreated to San Diego's dugout.

Scott (left) and Jerry Hairston have been reunited as Padres

teammates.

The two have been doing a lot together since each joined the Padres over a two-day period this past January, Scott from the A's in a four-player deal, Jerry as a free agent. The Hairstons, though — like two of baseball's other well-known multigenerational dynasties, the Boones and the Bells — have a family tree that reads like a lineup card. Their uncle, Johnny, had a brief Big League stint and their father, Jerry, played 14 seasons with the

White Sox and Pirates. Their grandfather, Sammy Hairston, was a catcher in the Negro Leagues, and in 1951 he became the first African-American player to take the field for the Chicago White Sox. Quite an act to follow, but it seems to be in the blood.

BROTHER ACT

F THE MANY other Big League brother acts, several have taken the field together. Felipe, Matty and Jesus Alou prompted many a photo op in 1963 with the San Francisco Giants, and paired off in different combinations for the team during other years. Bengie Molina shared catching duties with brother Jose for the 2002 champion Angels; Cal and Billy Ripken were teammates for years in Baltimore; and Adam and Andy LaRoche suited up together for the 2008 and '09 Pirates. Plenty more have simply shared the honor of being Big Leaguers: Mike and Greg Maddux, Chris and Shelley Duncan, and B.J. and Justin

Upton, to name a few. Baseball fans have long made the sport a fixture in their family traditions. Ballplayers like these, with a virtual bloodline to the game, are no exception.

Bret and Aaron Boone's childhood memories feature Big League ballparks as a backdrop. Their father, Bob — now an assistant GM and VP of player development for the Nationals — played 19 seasons in the Majors. Bob's father, Ray, had a career that lasted from 1948–1960. When Aaron learned he would debut with the Cincinnati Reds in June 1997, Bret was in his fourth season with the team, and he was there to greet his brother.

"Getting called up to the Major Leagues is a big thing; it's an emotional thing. Bret being there and being established helped me transition," says Aaron, who retired last year and now keeps busy as an analyst on ESPN's Baseball Tonight. "I had my big brother there. To have somebody that knows you so well, who can relate to what you're going through — I was fortunate."

Aaron lived with Bret and his family while they were both stationed in Cincinnati and he

worked to earn a spot in the Reds' lineup. By the time the 1998 season closed, the younger Boone hadn't quite established himself as an everyday player, but he had played more than a third of the season, usually with his brother in the infield. Growing up, I always looked up to Bret. Being able to play on his team, and ultimately play with him in the same infield, was really neat. It's something I look back on and feel so lucky that I got to do."

On Sept. 27, the last day of the season, the Reds did the crowd at Cinergy Field one better, calling up Minor Leaguer Stephen

Larkin to start in the only infield ever composed of two sets of brothers: first baseman Stephen Larkin, second baseman Bret Boone, third baseman Aaron Boone and shortstop Barry Larkin.

"At the pitching change, when we were all out on the mound, it was pretty cool," Aaron recalls. "By then, I had played a lot of games with my brother, but I know it was a big deal for Barry. Playing with Stephen for the first time was special for him."

That historic 1998 game turned out to be the last the Boones would play in the same uniform, as Bret left for Atlanta the following season. Remaining in the National League, though, they

were still able to find time on the diamond together.

"Playing against him in games was a little different. You want your team to win, so there was some competition there," Aaron says. He recalls in particular June 23, 2000, when Bret hit three homers against his team. And another when Aaron hit a walk-off to beat San Diego when Bret was playing there.

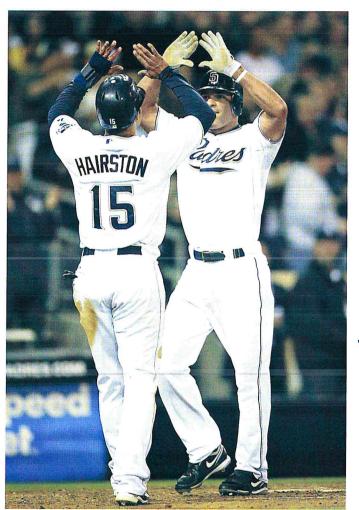
"We had some good games against each other," Aaron says. "It was fun — in a way, more fun than playing together."

to the Majors in August 2007. Within a matter of weeks he found himself in the whirlwind of a playoff run, as the Diamondbacks took the NL West and swept the Cubs in the NLDS. Although Arizona eventually dropped the series to Colorado, the crowd at Chase Field on Thursday, Oct. 11, for Game 1 of the NLCS was on a playoff high, with predictably outstanding energy. And there was one

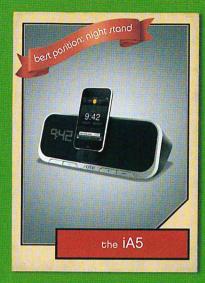
special guest: Joining Justin's mother and father in attendance was his older brother, Rays outfielder B.J. Despite his own championship hopes for that season dying much earlier, B.J. wouldn't have missed the game for anything.

"For him to be in his first two months up in the Bigs and have the chance to play in the postseason, I think it's great, and I want to be here to support him," B.J. told MLB.com after the game.

Family loyalty is strong. But sibling rivalry can be, too. Throw in the pressure of a Major League contract, the whole world watching, and there's certainly some satisfaction in going a little further in the season or stealing a few more bases than the big brother who was always two steps ahead growing up. These are, after all, some of the most competitive people on the planet.



The Hairstons (Jerry wearing No. 15) have taken the term "Bash Brothers" quite literally.

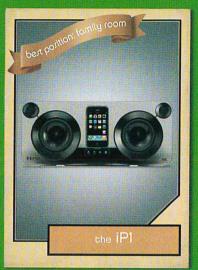


















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BROTHER ACT

"We were always competitive. You want to do everything that your brother does," Justin said this offseason during an interview alongside B.J. at MLB Network's Studio 42. "I remember when we were young, I wanted to play on all the travel teams that he was on. And when he got to the Big Leagues at 19, I was like, 'Oh, that's something I want to do, too.' It's not that you just want to top him — you do want to top him in the back of your mind — but you also want to be on the same track."

Eventually, B.J. and Justin would love to play together, but admit it would be best to wait until their careers have shifted into more of a groove, and their dynamic has calmed a bit.

"Right now, us being in the clubhouse together ... there might be a fight, or at least one argument, every day," Justin said. For now, they'll have to settle for Interleague Play — the Rays hosted the Diamondbacks in late June — and catching each other on television.





Aaron Boone (far left) had a close friend to learn from in big brother Bret (left), while Jeff Weaver (bottom left) lost his spot in the 2006 Angels rotation to younger brother Jered.

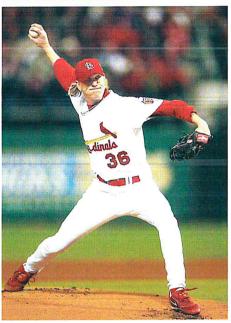
B.J. was a No. 2 overall draft pick in 2002, while Arizona selected Justin No. 1 in 2005. It made them the first brothers to be picked in the top two slots of separate drafts, and though masked in good-hearted joshing, even such a minor staggering of success — No. 2 compared to No. 1 — is the source of healthy rivalry between the Uptons.

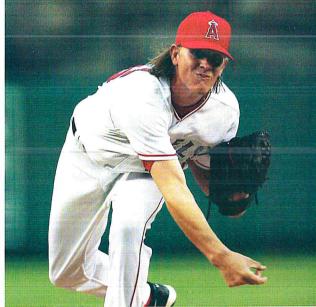
To conclude the Studio 42 interview, former Big Leaguer Harold Reynolds and studio host Greg Amsinger launched into a rapid fire, asking the brothers who has a stronger throwing arm ("B.J.," Justin admitted) and who is quicker down the line ("I am," Justin claimed).

B.J. was unconvinced: "I would have given you the arm, but the speed? Come on. Really?"

"Around the bases, you got me," Justin said, "but straight ahead, I got you all day long."

"Just let him talk," said his big brother. If the banter sounds familiar, it's because it's the fruit of every sibling rivalry. Only instead of playing out around the kitchen table, the Uptons go to battle on national television.





Heated sibling rivalries, however, aren't necessarily detrimental to performance.

"We made each other try harder," Mike Maddux told MLB.com of growing up with his younger brother, four-time Cy Young winner Greg. Mike, who pitched in the Big Leagues for 15 years and is now the Rangers' pitching coach, always knew his kid brother was headed for dominance. Playing pick-up games with kids several years older prepared him for success. In those games, "he was always my first-round draft pick," said Mike.

During their professional careers, Mike didn't have quite the same say over whether his Hall of Fame-bound sibling was on his team. The Madduxes took the mound against each other



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BROTHER ACT

twice in the late '80s — Greg for the Cubs and Mike for the Phillies — and split the wins. Phil and Joe Niekro played three seasons together in the '70s and '80s, but also pitched against each other a total of nine times, more than any other brother duo, with Phil winning four to his younger brother's five. Most recently, Jeff and Jered Weaver did battle during an Interleague Freeway Series in 2009, Jeff taking the 6-4 win from his younger brother.

That victory likely gave a little redemption to Jeff, who in June 2006 was designated for assignment by the Angels only to be replaced by, of all people, Jered, who had been dominating in Triple-A Salt Lake. "He understands that his brother's time is now and he sees the depth of our rotation," offered Halos Manager Mike Scioscia in response to

RAYS

Justin Upton (left) and big brother B.J. love to outdo each other.

the swap. Despite the scenario's cinematic unfolding, Jeff and Jered have been able to separate work from their relationship. Later that year, after Jeff settled in with the Cardinals and helped pitch them to the world title, he was joined in the victorious clubhouse by a clearly emotional Jered, elated for his big bro.

"We're each other's biggest fans," says Jeff, who now pitches for Jered's crosstown-rival Dodgers. "We talk quite a bit. Not only since he's been in the Big Leagues, but through college. I've been there and seen exactly what he might be going through at certain times. I love watching him pitch any chance I get."

OMPETITION WOULD HAVE little consequence without a foundation of respect, and for Major League siblings — by far more often than not — a basis of support.

"Bret is my big brother, and I looked up to him," says Aaron Boone. "And in his

eyes, I was just his little brother. We pulled for each other in that regard. Trying to out-do each other came out in the backyard playing Wiffle Ball or a game of pool or shooting baskets. When it came to the Majors, the competitive thing wasn't really there."

Much more central — especially for families like the Boones, Bells, Hairstons, and even the Griffeys and Fielders — is the continuation of a legacy. The fact that these players grew up at the ballpark, watching Dad take batting practice, befriending legends, absorbing skills and knowledge whether they knew it or not, made the whole thing seem almost involuntary.

"It's part of who I am," says Aaron Boone. "I don't know anything else. My dad played in the Big Leagues from the time I was born until my senior year of high school. I was always around it, and I like to think that it shaped who I am."

The Duncan brothers — Chris, who plays for Washington, and Shelley, who is stationed in Cleveland — offer the same explanation, having spent nearly every summer of their lives at the stadium with their father, former Major Leaguer and current Cardinals pitching coach Dave Duncan. "We would go out with my dad to the ballpark every day and be around Big Leaguers," says Chris. "It was a really good opportunity to be around good players and see how they go about their business. Being around it all the time from such a young age motivated me to want to be a better player, and it definitely sparked my love for the game."

Buddy Bell played ball for nearly two decades, and went on to manage the Tigers, Rockies and Royals. His sons, David and Mike, since setting aside their own Major League careers, have both become Minor League managers, with instinct and tradition keeping them in the game.

As the Hairstons finish out the season in San Diego, there will be plenty more opportunities for high-fives, as well as for brotherly jeering and advice — requested or otherwise. And Scott has another family imprint in the making: the fourth generation. With two young sons of his own, he acknowledges that his playing with Jerry might "give them a little motivation" to take on the Majors together. With the family track record, it's hard to imagine that path would need much paving. •

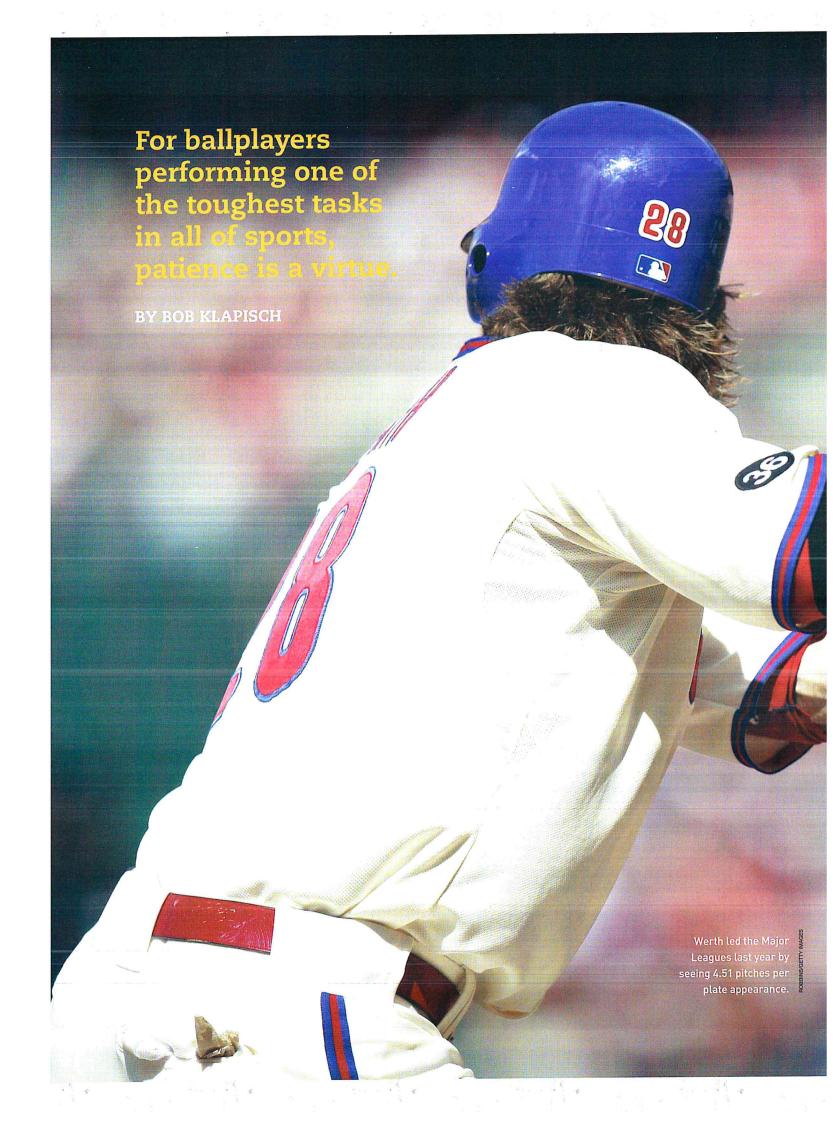
Jodie Jordan is a project assistant editor for Major League Baseball Properties.

FAMILY TREE

When the Boone and Larkin brothers made their memories in Cincinnati, it wasn't the first family tree that the city had hosted in its long baseball timeline. The Bell family's youngest Big League generation, David and Mike, was raised there, both attending the same high school that their father, Buddy, did. (The Larkins were students there, as well.) Mike, Buddy and his father, Gus, all played for the Reds during their careers — Gus for nine seasons, in four of which he was named to the NL All-Star team. With more than 100 years of combined Big League play propelling them, the Boone and Bell lines finally intersected, fittingly in Cincinnati, during the 2000 season. Mike debuted for the Reds as a pinch-hitter in late July, eventually playing a few games at third base. His first game at the hot corner came 10 days after Aaron — who had played much of the season at third — was forced to take a seat due to a knee injury. Although they never actually took the field together, if any name had to replace Boone's in the Queen City, Bell seemed fitting. -JJ

From left, the Bells: Buddy, David and Mike





AS FAR BACK AS JAYSON WERTH CAN REMEMBER.

his at-bats seemed to last forever. There he was in high school, measuring, calculating, working pitchers to that sweet spot that hitters at any level crave — the 3-1 count that's as good as gold.

Werth laughs as he recalls his father hounding him to be more aggressive. "He was always telling me, 'Swing the bat," says the Phillies right fielder. "All I was trying to do was get a good pitch to hit."

Little did Werth know, but he was on to something. Today, working the count and its lucrative reward, getting on base, has become baseball's obsession. It has turned the time-honored struggle between pitchers and hitters into a war of attrition; it feels like everyone's waiting longer these days.

"There's no doubt it's tougher to get through innings than 10 years ago," says Yankees left-hander Andy Pettitte. "It seems like no one swings at bad pitches anymore. And those eight- or nine-pitch innings, the kind you need once in a while to give you a breather, they're a thing of the past."

Indeed, baseball has morphed into chess, where caution and thinking two and three pitches ahead is equated with a high in-game IQ. The pendulum has swung the other way from the hit-anything-close era of yesteryear. Now it's all about pouncing at the right moment, even if it means waiting until two strikes to begin the attack.

On their way to a championship in 2009, the Yankees led the AL in pitches seen (25,049) and were fifth in pitches per plate appearance (3.88). Their hitters worked the count to 3-1 a total of 709 times, well above the league average of 583.

The Bronx Bombers were a model of pickiness, drawing an AL-leading 663 walks. They swung at the first pitch in just 24 percent of their plate appearances — only the Red Sox and Angels, both of

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whom qualified for the postseason, swung at fewer first pitches. Bobby Abreu, of course, has shown the value of patience for the Halos. With an average of at least 4.21 pitches per plate appearance each year since 2002 and more than 1,250 walks in his Big League

career, he is the epitome of a player who works the count. And for the Yankees this season, Brett Gardner held the top spot in the Majors in pitches per plate appearance (4.54) through the first week of June, and by that point had recorded a .393 on-base percentage — which placed him in the top 10 in the AL along with teammates Robinson Cano and Nick Swisher.

Practically every club has come to the actuarial conclusion that longer at-bats lead to two outcomes that invariably favor hitters: mistakes by the pitcher and walks.

"When it comes to scoring runs, there's nothing more important than on-base percentage," says Oakland A's GM Billy Beane. "For years there was a running debate about the best way to put runs on the board. You can steal a base or put down a sacrifice bunt, but it's a fact: If you're not on base, you're not going to score."

It's no surprise to find Beane on this soapbox. He's regarded as the founding father of the Moneyball philosophy, which not only challenged the time-honored love affair with the stolen base, but also brought another metric into the mainstream - on-base-plus-slugging percentage. OPS quantifies plate discipline, bat control, and power in a single measure. Beane was such a strong proponent of longer at-bats that his Minor Leaguers were taught not to swing until the first strike had been recorded.

As a by-product of their boss's beliefs, the A's swung at just 18.5 percent of first-pitch strikes in 2003, just as the Moneyball concepts were gaining momentum. Now the ethos is as mainstream as pitch counts.

Last year, it was Werth who led the Majors by averaging 4.51 pitches per appearance. He long ago tabled his father's advice, and instead topped a field of selective hitters that included Kevin Youkilis (4.41), Nick Johnson (4.36) and Adam Dunn (4.32).

WERTH'S PHILOSOPHY IS STILL

as simple today as it was in his youth baseball days.

"The more pitches I see, the better the chances I'm going to get something to drive," he says. "I know it doesn't always work that way - sometimes the best pitch I see in an atbat is the first one. But the odds are usually in your favor if you can wait."



The key to being patient, perhaps counterintuitively, is abandoning the fear of striking out. That would have been more difficult, say, 25 years ago, when a scorebook "K" was nothing less than a scarlet letter. But now, Strike Three is as much a part of the

game as a home run — practically its cousin.

"The old-time players would tell you to choke up with two strikes and put the ball in play," says Red Sox Manager Terry Francona. But no longer. More hitters are willing to write off Strike Three as acceptable collateral damage.

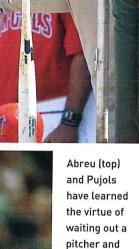
Today, with the game being played on the narrowest margins of the strike zone, teams average 10.8 non-contact plate appearances per nine innings, which is up 37 percent from 1980. As the

> war of attrition intensifies, the battle boils down to the third pitch of the at-bat - arguably the most important sequence to the hitter and pitcher alike.

Why? Because of the wide variance in expected outcomes. In the first two months of the 2010 season, AL hitters raised their average to .328 with a .529 slugging percentage after a 1-1 pitch was called a ball. Conversely, when the count went from 1-1 to 1-2, those same hitters often met their doom: The league-wide average plunged to .159 with a .225 slugging percentage.

Of course, how one arrives at Pitch No. 3 has plenty to do with the eventual outcome. To Tampa Bay's David Price, nothing is as important as getting Strike One. "I know what's said about the difference between 2-1 and 1-2, but to me, if I can get that first pitch over, I'm in control of the at-bat," says the Rays' lefthanded ace. "If hitters are more patient now, that's fine, because it gives me a chance to get ahead quickly."

that kind of confidence, but more and more hitters today are willing to live with at least a one-pitch deficit for the potential reward. Stitched within the quest for selective hitting and on-base percentage is the hope that, sooner or later, a hitter will get exactly the kind of strike he has been waiting for.



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PERHAPS IT'S NO COINCIDENCE THAT THREE OF

the game's six most selective sluggers through June of this year played in Boston: Youkilis, David Ortiz and Dustin Pedroia. Their patience Get to know
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history.
BY TROY E. RENCK





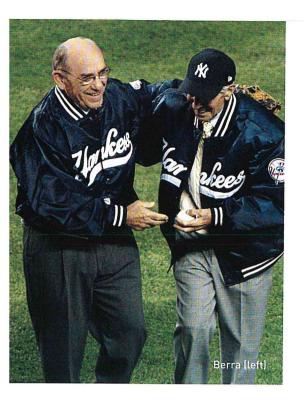


BASEBALL'S GREATEST PERSONALITIES



Countless players, umpires, managers, owners and broadcasters have brought passion, pranks and an indomitable spirit to America's national pastime. The nine-month baseball season is a grind, so levity is welcome. Whether hustling in front of adoring fans, lightening the mood during a tense pennant race, or employing outlandish behavior to test the patience of a front office, the familiar oddballs and passionate grinders add drama to the baseball season. These unforgettable characters incite both debate and intrigue, some by revolutionizing the game, some by offering life lessons, and some by talking to a baseball.





YOGI BERRA

Poets. Business Leaders. Presidents. Few are quoted as often as Hall of Fame backstop Yogi Berra. It's hard to attend a college graduation or any other event in which an inspirational speech is delivered and not hear his words: "When you come to a fork in the road, take it." And how many athletes have used the expression, "It ain't over 'til it's over"?

His phrases have become cliches, though some were hardly understood when he said them. Just don't ask Berra to explain how he became a cultural icon or a pitchman for everything from beer to cat food to insurance. Berra usually shakes his head at his unintentional butchering of English.

"I don't mean to be funny. I tell you the truth — them sayings come out. I don't know I say them. I really don't," said Berra.

There is often a charming redundancy at the heart of Berra's gems:

"You observe a lot by watching."

"That's Frank Robinson's style of hitting. If you can't imitate him, don't copy him."

"Did [Don Mattingly exceed expectations]? No, but he did a lot better than I thought he would."

Growing up in St. Louis, Berra was hardly a comedian. Childhood friend Joe Garagiola put it this way: "Yogi doesn't say funny things. Yogi says things funny."

Berra received his nickname from his childhood friends because he walked like an Indian yogi they saw in a movie. Berra won three MVP Awards and played in 14 World Series for the Yankees. He was not only one of the greatest hitting catchers of all time, but also one of the best bad-ball hitters ever.



When you're a winner you're always happy, but if you're happy as a loser you'll always be a loser." -Fidrych

MARK FIDRYCH

In 1976, Mark Fidrych wasn't just a pitcher. He was baseball's must-see event. Long, lanky and gawky, Fidrych earned the nickname "Big Bird" because of his resemblance to the *Sesame Street* character. His statistics alone were memorable — a 19-9 record with a league-leading 2.34 ERA. But to define him by stats alone would be just as myopic as remembering NBA showman Dennis Rodman solely for his

rebounds. His pitching style was distinct; his impromptu hands-on grounds-keeping and his dialogue with the baseball captured the country's attention. Hunched over with his cap low and shaggy hair framing his face, he instructed the baseball where to go. This was after he had already dropped to one knee and filled the hole in front of the pitching rubber before each inning.

"People thought I was strange," Fidrych said. "I didn't think anything of it until they started saying, 'You know what you are doing out there?' I would say, 'Yeah, I am pitching. I am filling up the hole. You want me to get the grounds crew out here and stop the game every time?"

As for those psychiatry sessions with the baseball?

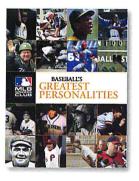
"I know they thought I was weird, talking to the ball. But I was talking to myself out there, getting some nerves out," Fidrych said.

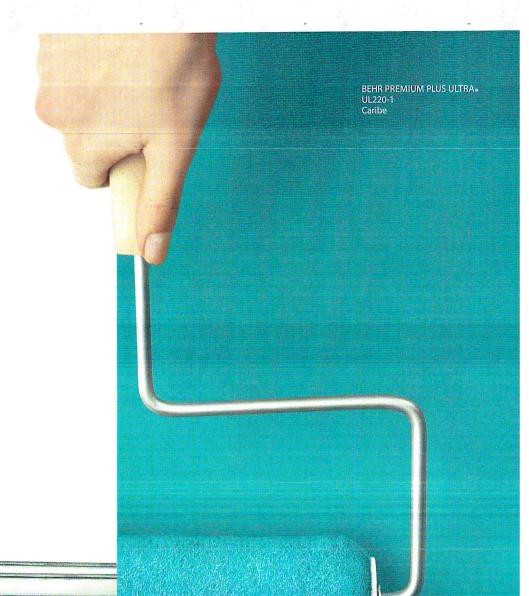
Fidrych refused to throw a ball that had given up a hit and threw back balls that had "dents." Fans went crazy for his persona. Girls would follow him to the barbershop and scoop up his freshly shorn locks as souvenirs.

Sabotaged by a torn rotator cuff, Fidrych won just 10 more games after his magical '76 season. He died in a freak accident at age 54 at his Massachusetts farm in 2009, but his toothy smile, fanatical following and strange gait made him impossible to forget.

"In the two years he was here," legend Al Kaline said, "he was probably the most popular Detroit Tiger there has ever been."

This article is excerpted from Baseball's Greatest Personalities, a title from the MLB Insiders Club's Baseball Insiders Library. To find out how to join the MLB Insiders Club, log on to mlbinsidersclub.com. Members of the MLB Insiders Club receive the exclusive opportunity to view and purchase books such as Baseball's Greatest Personalities and many more editions covering Major League Baseball. Members also receive a free subscription to MLB Insiders Club Magazine, featuring behind-the-scenes access and many other "insider" perks.





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BASEBALL'S GREATEST PERSONALITIES

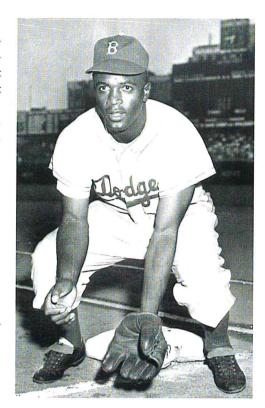
JACKIE ROBINSON

The epitaph on Jackie Robinson's headstone succinctly summarizes his ethos: "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives."

Robinson integrated baseball when he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947, becoming the first African-American player in the Majors since the 1800s. A talented athlete, he lettered in four sports at UCLA and was a second lieutenant in the Army before entering the Negro Leagues. By Robinson's own admission, there were other African-Americans who were just as good as him. But none were better suited than Robinson to endure the onslaught of racial taunts.

"He meant everything to the black ballplayer," stated the Yankees' first African-American player, Elston Howard.

As a player, Robinson was a star, a fact that can be overlooked because of his enormous cultural impact. Elected to the Hall of Fame, he hit .311 with 197 stolen bases — 19 of



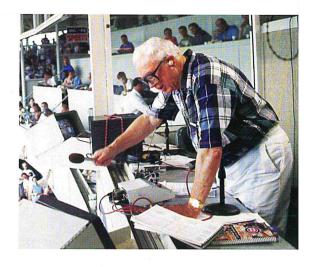
"I'm not concerned with your liking or disliking me. All I ask is that you respect me as a human being." –Robinson

which were of home plate — before his Big League career ended in 1956. Major League Baseball universally retired his No. 42 in 1997.

Following his retirement from the Major Leagues, Robinson publicly expressed his desire to see an African-American manager in the Bigs before he died. One year he even refused to attend an Old-Timers Day game in order to raise awareness of the issue.

"My only regret is that I wish Jackie was here to see this," said Frank Robinson when he became the first black manager in the Big Leagues in 1975.

Jackie had died three years earlier, at the age of 53, after battling a variety of ailments. He humbly downplayed his role in baseball — but no one else does.



HARRY CARAY

With his huge glasses, humorous opinions and tendency to mispronounce names (Hector Vee-uh-nwavee ring a bell?), Harry Caray's larger-than-life personality entertained fans for nearly 50 years in the broadcast booth. From his debut on KMOX in St. Louis in 1945, his enthusiastic style was unique, and he delighted fans with his trademark "Holy Cow!" exclamation. Caray's passion was that of a fan, not a paid puppet. So when the team was great, he was over-the-top in his praise; when the team stunk, he let the players have it.

"When I'm at the ballpark broadcasting a game, I'm the eyes and ears for that fan at home," Caray wrote in his autobiography, *Holy Cow*.

He began his career with the Cardinals, adding flavor to broadcasts that he said were previously as boring "as morning crop reports." After stops with the White Sox and Oakland A's, Caray found fame with the Cubs, becoming more popular than most of the players. He was the life of the party, whether it was arriving at the team's Spring Training facility on his golf cart with a cold beer in hand or mingling with fans in his unofficial role as "Mayor of Rush Street."

Later in his life, he was frequently imitated by players such as Will Ohman and Ryan Dempster, and actors like Will Ferrell.

BILL 'SPACEMAN' LEE

When it comes to free spirits, Bill Lee is in his own galaxy. Lee was a decent pitcher, winning 119 games in his 14-year career, including a decade-long run that left him beloved in Boston. Still, he's remembered not as a pitcher, but as a symbol for the counterculture of the late 1960s and early '70s. He earned the nickname "Spaceman" from Red Sox teammate John Kennedy because he was considered a flake. In truth, Lee was just a free-thinking original.

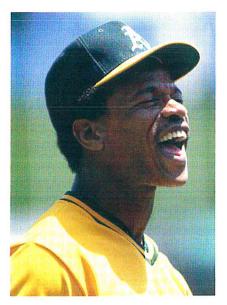
The socially conscious Lee attracted liberal, college-age fans with his rebellious side. He loved songwriter Warren Zevon, who eventually wrote a song titled "Bill Lee."

Lee was fascinating because, unlike some eccentrics, when he crossed the white lines he might as well have been carrying a briefcase. Although a lefty by birth and in politics, Lee was a traditionalist on the mound. He despised the designated hitter and AstroTurf.

"Baseball is the belly button of America," Lee wrote in his autobiography, *Wrong Stuff*, in 1984. "If you straighten out the belly button, the rest of the country will follow suit."



BASEBALL'S GREATEST PERSONALITIES



RICKEY HENDERSON

Rickey Henderson is the greatest leadoff hitter of all time; books could be written on his baserunning alone. He is baseball's "Man of Steal," swiping a record 1,406 bases, including 130 in 1982. Henderson played into his mid-40s with a body that looked like it was chiseled out of granite. No wonder those who saw him play high school football thought that he would end up in the football Hall of Fame in Canton instead of alongside Babe Ruth in Cooperstown. Henderson's personality matched his skills. His hot-dog style, bright wristbands and one-handed catches inspired a generation of athletes that came after him. And

Rickey knew all along that he was doing something special. Yet his seemingly accidental humor often distracted from his occasional over-confidence.

Former Padres General Manager Kevin Towers, between giggles, remembered Henderson once complaining about his seat on the bus. Towers told Henderson he could sit wherever he wanted because of his tenure.

"Tenure? Rickey's got 15 years," Henderson said.

If Henderson didn't invent talking in the third person, he certainly perfected it.

"If my uniform doesn't get dirty, I haven't done anything in the baseball game."

-Henderson



ICHIRO SUZUKI

Ichiro Suzuki is mostly known for his hits, notching more than 2,000 in his first nine seasons. But many people don't know that he also possesses remarkable intelligence and wit. Flash back to the 2009 All-Star Game. Suzuki sat by his locker, talking to reporters about the difficulty of hitting .400. Then the Mariners' star was asked about something that really piqued his interest: his shiny new cleats. They appeared silver in color.

"The cleats are platinum, not silver," he corrected a reporter. "Of course they are cool. They had an image of me in their mind when they made them."

Ichiro is no stranger to memorable All-Star Game moments. His best, arguably, have come behind closed doors. Several American League players admitted that, beginning in 2001, the wispy outfielder had become the team's Knute Rockne. Each year, he would deliver a motivational pregame speech laced with expletives in English that cracked up All-Star teammates.

"If you've never seen it, it's definitely pretty funny," All-Star slugger Justin Morneau said. "It's hard to explain the effect it has on everyone."

Ichiro's personality is more widely appreciated in Japan, where he once had his own TV trivia show. He said with amusement, "My brain has probably worked harder in these two years [of the show] than in my entire life combined."

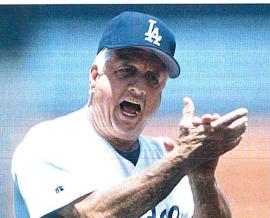
As Ichiro became more comfortable with the American press, he began unleashing more colorful quotes and American sports fans have been able to better appreciate the lighter, more thoughtful side of the single-season hits king.

TOMMY LASORDA

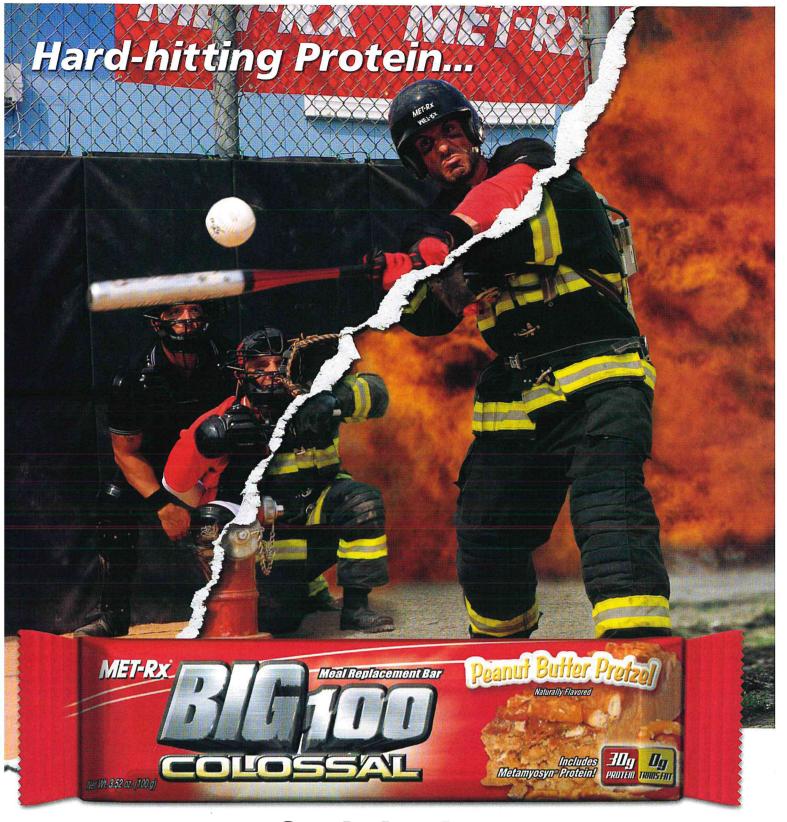
It was October 2009 at Dodger Stadium and the team was pushing for a playoff spot, yet the loudest cheer of the night came when former manager Tommy Lasorda appeared on the Jumbo Tron. To many, Lasorda — who led the team to world titles in 1981 and '88 — will forever be the face of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

"I bleed Dodger blue," Lasorda said. "And when I die, I am going to the big Dodger in the skv."

Lasorda's motivational speeches were legendary. He was never afraid to celebrate with his men or offer a hug. He defended his players and himself if challenged by an opponent. He once fought the Phillie Phanatic, and his rants against foes like the Padres' Kurt Bevacqua and Dave Kingman will be You-Tube classics for years. He also had a biting sense of humor, one time joking that Rick Monday and Manny Mota were so old, they were waiters at the Last Supper.



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BASEBALL'S GREATEST PERSONALITIES

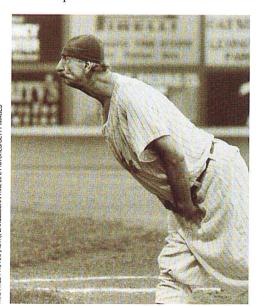
MAX PATKIN

Growing up in Philadelphia, Max Patkin dreamed of becoming a Big Leaguer like A's star Jimmie Foxx, not of earning the distinction as the game's most famous clown prince. He reached the Minor Leagues with the White Sox, but found his calling as a cut-up at Joe DiMaggio's expense. It occurred when both were in the Armed Forces, stationed in Hawaii. DiMaggio crushed a Patkin pitch for a home run, and, inexplicably, Patkin followed the Yankees star around the bases, imitating his trot.

This impromptu jaunt launched a comedy career that included more than 4,000 appearances in nearly every outpost that had a field and a sense of humor. The slapstick routine started with his outfit. Patkin wore baggy pants, a sideways cap and a uniform with a question mark on the back. Along with his trademark toothless grin, he perfected the act — mocking the signs of base coaches, spewing water like a geyser — while working for Bill Veeck's White Sox, Browns and Indians.

The routine was scripted, even corny, but as Patkin admitted, "the fans liked it." He would pretend to bat, dodging a pitch at his head and pushing over the catcher. After finally getting a hit, he would jog around the bases before being called out at home, inciting an imaginary argument that would always result in his ejection. He took many cues from pioneer merrymaker Al Schacht. Former Minor Leaguer turned film director Ron Shelton saw Patkin in the bush leagues and cast him in *Bull Durham*.

"My wife of 24 years never saw me perform," Patkin once joked. "She thought I was an airline pilot."





BABE RUTH

When it comes to baseball legends, even cultural legends, there's Babe Ruth — and then there's everyone else. No one approaches his popularity. He was the right man at the right time, expanding the possibilities for hitters and celebrities. He saved the sport after the 1919 "Black Sox" scandal. The Babe's powerful body twisted into the ground like a corkscrew when he swung and missed. And Ruth lived life like he swung the bat — all out, all the time.

"If I'd just tried for them dinky singles, I could've batted around .600." –Ruth

He was so flamboyantly different — he evolved from a star left-handed pitcher for the Red Sox to a slugger for the Yankees — that he *had* to be watched. He hit 54 homers in his first year with the Yankees in 1920. By 1921, he was the sport's all-time home run leader, an honor he held until Hank Aaron eclipsed his 714 blasts in 1974.

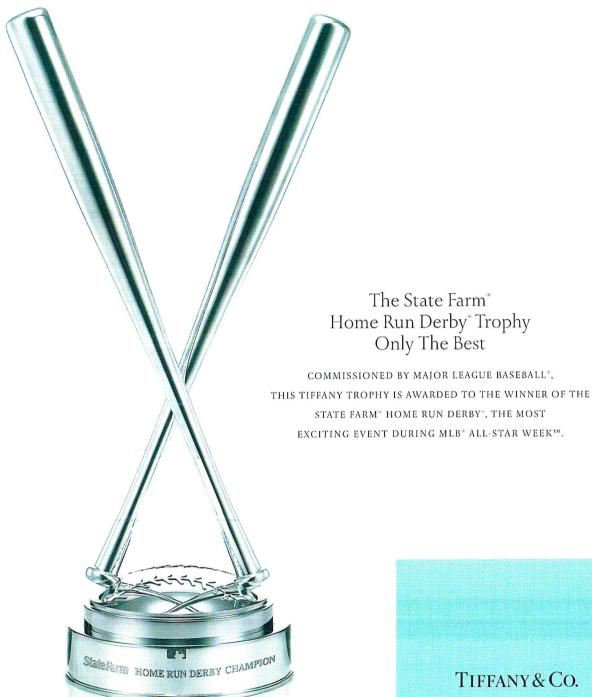
Teams started walking him often, which sportswriters labeled "the most unpopular play in baseball." As a ballplayer, Ruth was a walking caricature. He owned a 2.28 ERA and 94 wins in 10 seasons as a pitcher, and had no rival as a power hitter — or as a showman. People claim he even called his shot during Game 3 of the 1932 World Series at Wrigley Field, and this might-have-been moment remains one of the most celebrated acts in baseball history.

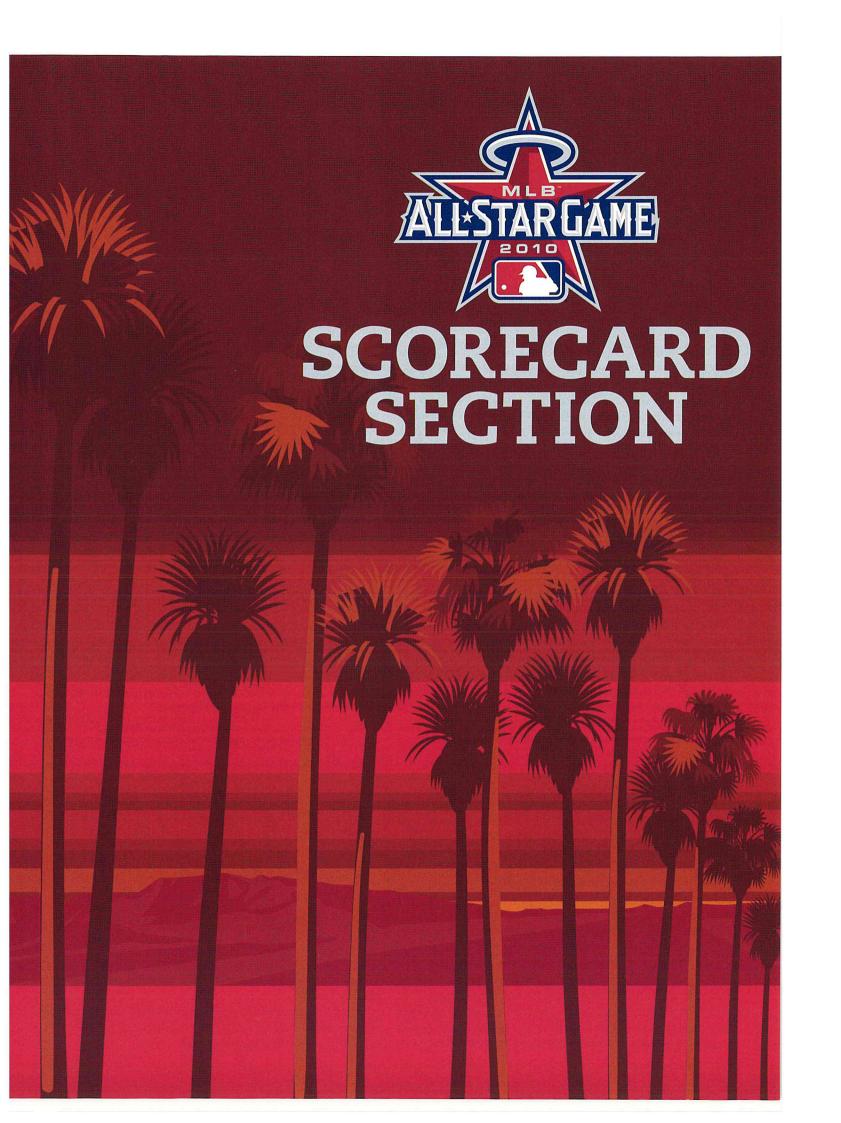
"The old gag that Waite Hoyt used was, 'All the lies about Ruth are true,'" author Robert Creamer wrote. "Ruth accrued legends."

When he wasn't dedicating homers to sick children, he was getting suspended for barnstorming with Negro Leaguers and missing time for carousing. His passing in 1948 was global news, and he was mourned as if he were a fallen head of state.

"Babe Ruth had all the qualities of a hero, and as an exemplar of clean sport was an inspiration to tens of thousands of rooters of all ages," said President Harry Truman. ◆

Troy E. Renck is a baseball writer for the Denver Post, a regular contributor on ESPN's First Take and the author of Baseball's Greatest Personalities.





★ HOW TO SCORE★

ifferent fans have different methods of keeping a scorecard, and many use their own notations, but here's a simple method of scoring on your own:

First, fill in the starting lineup. When the game begins, start in the column corresponding to the first inning and go to the box next to the name of the hitter who is at the plate. If the hitter makes an out, write down how he was put out according to the legend at right. If the hitter grounds out to shortstop, for example, write in "6-3," which shows that the shortstop threw him out at first base. The notation for a flyout to left, for example, would be "7."

If the batter gets a base hit, pencil in the hit according to which base he reached. The corners of the box represent the bases, with the lower-right corner being first. If he singles, pencil in a "-" in the lower right. If he doubles, pencil in a "=" in the upper right, and so on. If he walks, pencil in "BB"

in the lower right. As the runner advances, mark the appropriate symbol in the appropriate corner.

If a runner scores, put a circle at the bottom of the box, and inside the circle put the symbol of the play and/or the player that drove him in. For example, if the No. 5 hitter drives in two runs with a single,

INNING 1 INNING 2 SAMPLE. **SCORESHEET** flied out to center field Center Fielder 8 Shortston 6 reached on fielder's choice, advanced to 3rd on next batter's double, scored on No. 5 batter's single BB 1st Baseman struck out swinging doubled, scored on No. 5 batter's single 3rd Baseman singled, advanced to 2nd on next batter's single, stole 3rd base, thrown out on grounder, shortstop to catcher Number Players SB 6 .B 6-2 — SB Right Fielder As Follows: - Pitcher Left Fielder First Baseman Second Raseman Designated Hitter Third Baseman FC. Shortstop 2nd Baseman 4 Left Fielder popped out to 2nd base - Center Fielder - Right Fielder Catcher 9 - Right Fletuer
DH - Designated Hitter
(Used exclusively in the
American League) Totals Symbols For Plays: Additional Symbols: Double Play - DP Walk - BB Hit By Pitch - HBP IBB - Intentional Walk Strikeout - K Double Wild Pitch - WP X - Called out on strikes Balk - BK =Passed Ball - PB Sacrifice Fly - SF L - Line Drive Triple Home Run Foul Fly - F Stolen Base - SB Fielder's Choice - FC Force Out - FO Sacrifice - SAC U - Unassisted

> mark his single in the bottom right of his box and mark a circle with the number "5" inside the boxes of the runners that score.

> At the end of each inning, total the hits and runs for that inning only. At the end of the game, you can add the total for each inning to get the final score.

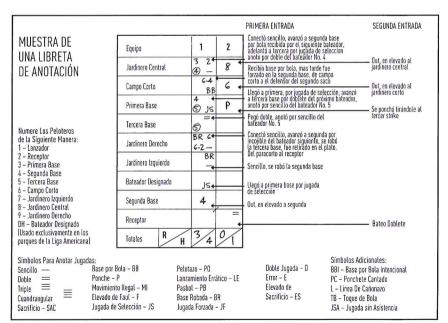
istintos fanáticos tienen diferentes métodos de llevar la anotación, además muchos usan sus propios signos o símbolos. Pero hay un método más sencillo.

Primero escriba la alineación inicial. Cuando el juego comience, anote en la columna correspondiente a la entrada primera y vaya a el encasillado al lado del nombre del bateador que está en el plato. Si el bateador es puesto fuera (out), escriba que fue out, de acuerdo a la clave que sigue a continuación. Si el bateador conecta arrastrado al campo corto, por ejemplo, anote "6-3," señalando que el corto tiró a primera base para retirarlo de out. El símbolo utilizado para anotar un elevado al jardín izquierdo, por ejemplo, sería "7."

Si el bateador batea un indiscutible, anótelo de acuerdo a la base alcanzada. Las esquinas del cuadrado representan las bases, la esquina inferior derecha sería la primera base. Si él conecta un sencillo, anote "–" en el lado derecho inferior. Si conecta doblete, escriba

"=" en el lado superior derecho, y así sucesivamente. Si recibe una base por bola, escriba "BB" en el lado derecho inferior. Según los corredores vayan avanzando, escriba el símbolo apropiado en la respectiva esquina.

Si un corredor anota, ponga un círculo en la base del cuadrado, dentro ponga el símbolo de la jugada y/o el jugador que empujó la carrera. Por ejemplo, si el quinto bateador empujó dos carreras con



un sencillo, anoté su sencillo en el lado derecho inferior del cuadrado y dibuje un círculo con el número "5" en las casillas de los corredores que anotaron.

Al finalizar cada entrada, sume todos los incogibles y carreras de esa entrada solamente. Al final del juego usted podrá sumar los totales de cada entrada, llegando a la anotación final.

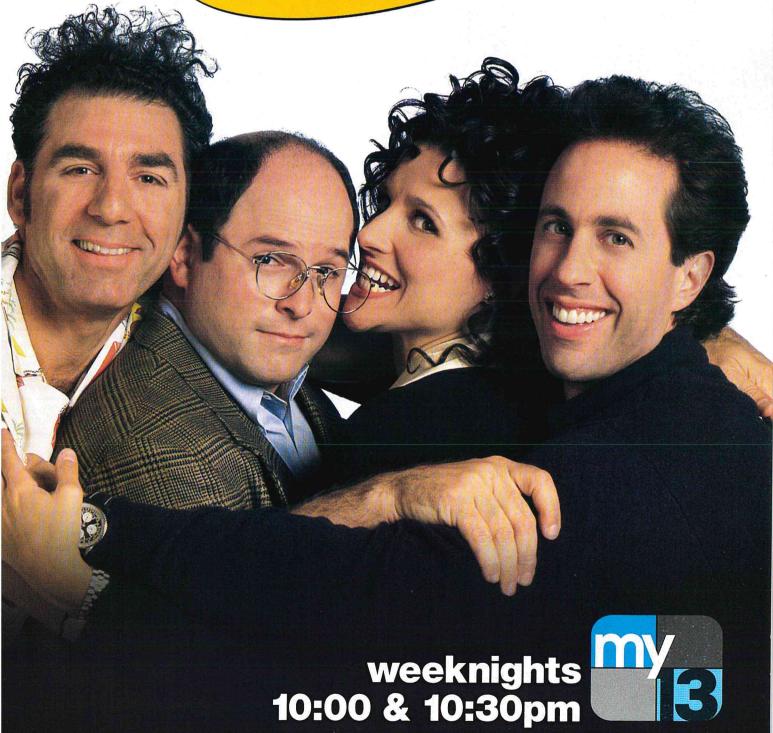


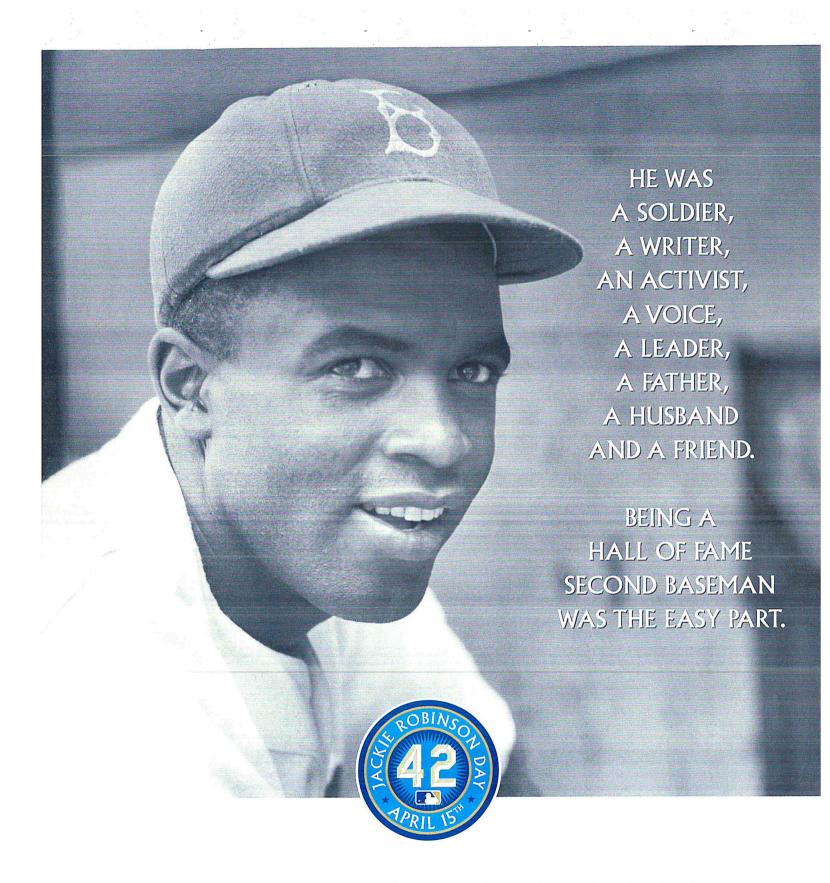
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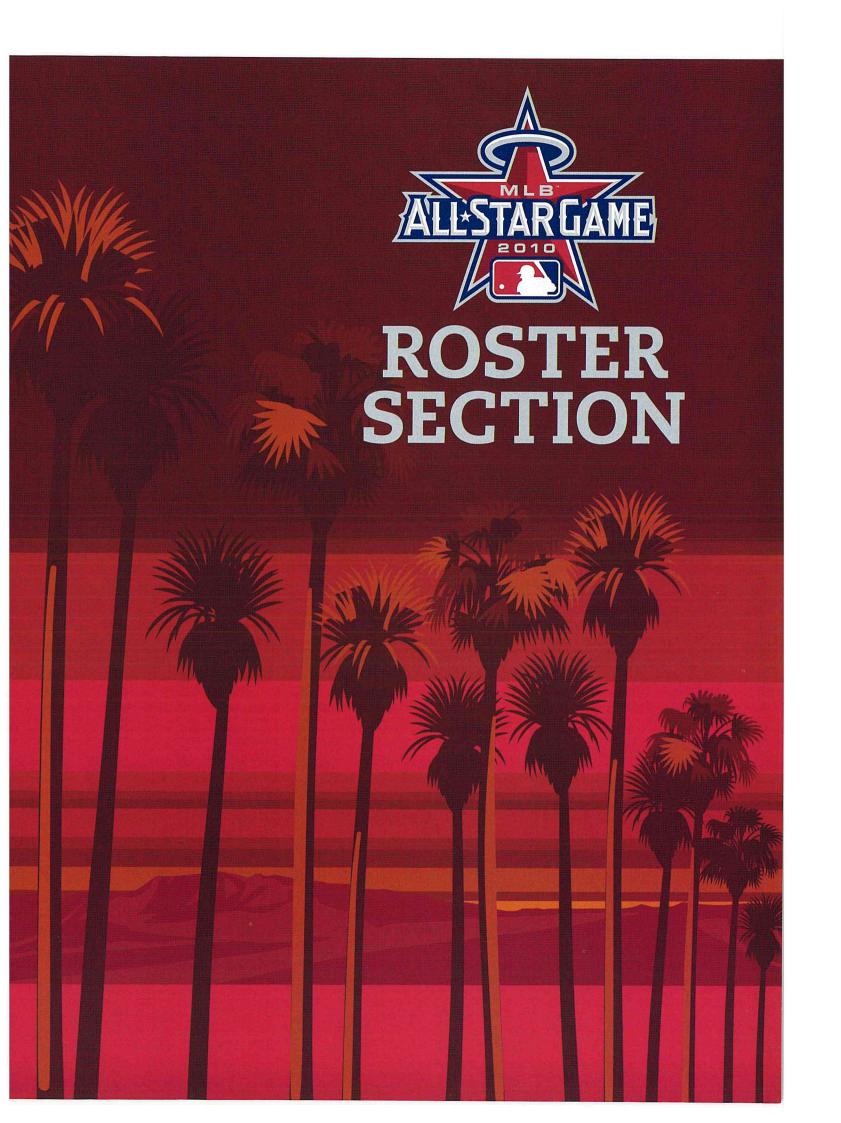


When Jackie Robinson stepped up to the plate on April 15, 1947 he wasn't challenging the Braves. He was challenging America.

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CHARLIE MANUEL

MANAGER PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES

The fiery Philly skipper is making a return trip to the Midsummer Classic as a

manager after leading the Phillies to the club's first world championship since 1980 in 2008 and the NL pennant last season.



BUD BLACK COACH SAN DIEGO PADRES

The California native and longtime Big League hurler broke into the coaching

ranks as the Angels' pitching coach in 2000. He has guided the Padres into the thick of the playoff race in the NL West.



BRUCE BOCHY

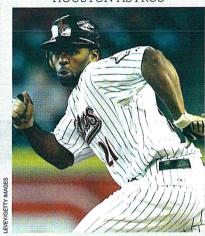
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS

The 1996 NL Manager of the Year, Bochy has a pennant and more than 1,200 wins

on his resume. The Giants' win total has increased in his first three seasons with the club and he is eyeing the postseason in 2010.

MICHAEL BOURN

OUTFIELD HOUSTON ASTROS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 1

Houston's speedster followed up his 2009 National League stolen base title by again surging to the top spot in the Senior Circuit through June.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
288	48	77	1	20	.267

RYAN BRAUN

OUTFIELD MILWAUKEE BREWERS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 3

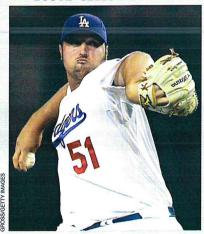
Among the National League's top vote-getters, Braun continues to post stellar power numbers while anchoring a potent Brewers lineup.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
312	49	92	11	49	.295

JONATHAN BROXTON

PITCHER LOS ANGELES DODGERS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 2

The Dodgers' closer used his fastball to dominate opposing hitters while nearing the top of the National League saves list thanks to 12 in May.

2010 STATS

G	IP.	W	L	ERA	SV
34	33.2	3	0	1.87	16

ALL STATISTICS ARE THROUGH JULY 1, 2010

MARLON BYRD

OUTFIELD CHICAGO CUBS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 1

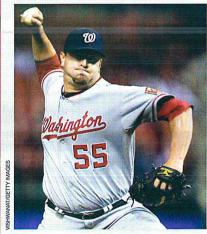
Building off a strong finish in 2009 in which he won a Player of the Week Award in September, Byrd ranks among NL leaders in base hits.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
297	41	91	9	35	.306

MATT CAPPS

PITCHER WASHINGTON NATIONALS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 1

Riding his fantastic fastball, the righthanded Capps emerged as one of the season's top stoppers in his first campaign in the nation's capital.

2010 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
37	35.2	1	3	3.28	22

CHRIS CARPENTER

PITCHER ST. LOUIS CARDINALS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 3

The veteran leader of a dynamic starting staff in St. Louis, the 2005 NL Cy Young winner is making a worthy case for another award in 2010.

2010 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
17	116.2	9	1	2.70	0

ANDRE ETHIER

OUTFIELD LOS ANGELES DODGERS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 1

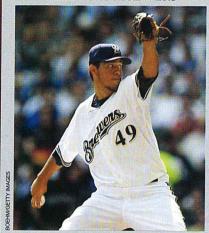
Ethier raked at a scorching .453 clip in May, establishing himself among the Majors' top hitters and punching a ticket to his first All-Star Game.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
234	37	73	12	47	.312

YOVANI GALLARDO

PITCHER MILWAUKEE BREWERS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 1

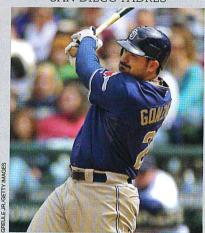
Undefeated in May, Gallardo tossed his first complete-game shutout that month while ranking among the league leaders in strikeouts.

2010 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
17	109.0	8	3	2.56	0

ADRIAN GONZALEZ

FIRST BASE SAN DIEGO PADRES



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 3

Gonzalez again ranks among the league leaders in home runs and is on pace for his fourth consecutive season with 30 or more longballs.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
290	42	86	16	51	.297

ROY HALLADAY

PITCHER PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 7

New league, same results for "Doc." In his first campaign as the Phillies' ace, Halladay twirled the 20th perfect game in Big League history on May 29.

2010 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
17	130.0	9	7	2.42	0

COREY HART

OUTFIELD MILWAUKEE BREWERS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 2

On pace to set career highs in homers and RBI, Hart's hot start at the plate has placed him among the NL's top power hitters in the first half.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVO
263	39	74	18	60	.281

ROSTERS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

NATIONAL LEAGUE ROSTER

JASON HEYWARD

OUTFIELD ATLANTA BRAVES



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 1

Just the jolt that the Braves' offense needed, the 20-year-old sensation homered in his first Major League at-bat and has hardly slowed since.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
255	41	64	11	45	.251

MATT HOLLIDAY

OUTFIELD ST. LOUIS CARDINALS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 4

The slugging outfielder hit .324 in May, putting him on track for his sixth straight season with a batting average above the .300 mark.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
291	44	88	11	38	.302

RYAN HOWARD

FIRST BASE
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 3

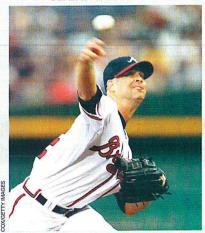
Howard is once again powering the Phillies' lineup, slugging well above .500 into July and setting a pace for yet another 100-RBI campaign.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
306	52	90	15	55	.294

TIM HUDSON

PITCHER ATLANTA BRAVES



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 3

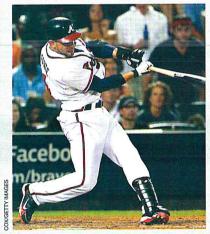
Hudson has been a strong force for the Braves, posting a 4-0 record and 1.59 ERA in six May starts and adding a complete game in June.

2010 STATS

G	IP	W	L.	ERA	SV
16	106.1	8	3	2.37	0

OMAR INFANTE

UTILITY ATLANTA BRAVES



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 1

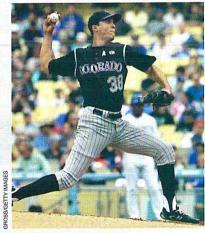
The versatile Infante has shown that he can play anywhere on the field, helping his team by starting at five positions in the first three months.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
158	22	48	1	19	.304

UBALDO JIMENEZ

PITCHER COLORADO ROCKIES



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 1

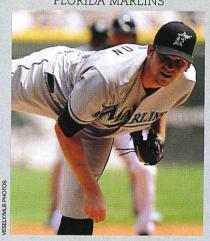
Jimenez has been one of the Majors' best moundsmen in the first half. He tossed a no-hitter in April — his first, and the first in Rockies history.

2010 STATS

LOTOGIANO							
	G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV	
	16	113.0	14	1_	1.83	0	

ALL STATISTICS ARE THROUGH JULY 1, 2010

JOSH JOHNSON PITCHER FLORIDA MARLINS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 2 Following a breakout 2009, Johnson has solidified his status as one of the NL's top hurlers with an ERA that ranks among the league's best.

2010 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
16	108.0	8	3	1.83	0

TIM LINCECUM

PITCHER SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 3

Once again on pace to finish with around 250 K's, Lincecum earns his third straight All-Star nod and may contend for his third Cy Young Award.

2010 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
16	103.2	8	3	3.13	0

BRIAN McCANN CATCHER

CATCHER ATLANTA BRAVES



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 5

Reaching base at around a .360 clip through much of 2010, McCann has also been among the NL leaders at his position in runs scored and RBI.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
223	35	58	9	33	.260

EVAN MEEKPITCHER PITTSBURGH PIRATES



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 1

Meek has become a star set-up man for Pittsburgh, maintaining an ERA below 1.00 and a batting-averageagainst of around .175 through June.

2010 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
37	46.0	3	2	0.98	1

YADIER MOLINA

CATCHER ST. LOUIS CARDINALS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 2

Becoming a fixture behind the plate at the Midsummer Classic, the Gold Glove backstop calls games for one of the league's best pitching staffs.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
238	15	55	3	30	.231

BRANDON PHILLIPS

SECOND BASE CINCINNATI REDS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 1

The on-base machine is looking at a fourth straight 20-homer, 20-double, 20-stolen base year and ranked first in the NL in runs scored through June.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
321	60	99	9	25	.308

ROSTERS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

NATIONAL LEAGUE ROSTER

MARTIN PRADO

SECOND BASE ATLANTA BRAVES



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 1

Named an NL Player of the Week in May, Prado led the Senior Circuit in hits entering July and is poised to shatter his 2009 numbers.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
333	56	111	7	34	.333

ALBERT PUIOLS

FIRST BASE ST. LOUIS CARDINALS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 9

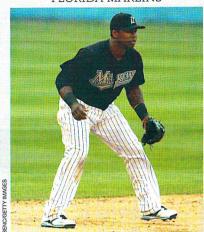
Arguably the most complete player in the Majors, the reigning National League MVP got off to a hot start, slugging at a .655 clip in April.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
288	46	89	19	58	.309

HANLEY RAMIREZ

SHORTSTOP FLORIDA MARLINS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 3

The 2009 Senior Circuit batting champ is powering the Marlins' lineup and is on pace to swipe 30 bags for the fourth time in his five full seasons.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
287	45	85	12	51	.296

JOSE REYES

SHORTSTOP NEW YORK METS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 3

Rebounding from an injury-plagued 2009, the noted speedster had multiple hits in 11 games during a June stretch in which he also hit five homers.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
310	51	86	6	32	.277

ARTHUR RHODES

PITCHER CINCINNATI REDS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 1

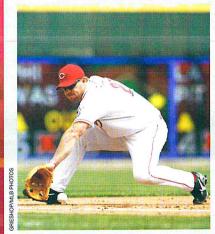
A reliable set-up man, Rhodes earned his first All-Star berth at age 40 after giving up just four runs with 32 K's in 33 innings pitched through June.

2010 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
37	33.0	3	2	1.09	0

SCOTT ROLEN

THIRD BASE CINCINNATI REDS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 6

A healthy Rolen has regained his All-Star form in 2010, delivering great defense and big numbers in the middle of a revamped Reds lineup.

2010 STATS

2010 31A13						
	AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
	258	41	78	17	54	.302

ALL STATISTICS ARE THROUGH JULY 1, 2010

TROY TULOWITZKI

SHORTSTOP COLORADO ROCKIES



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 1

Combining power and the ability to hit for a high average with speed in the field and on the bases, "Tulo" may be an All-Star for years to come.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
235	47	72	9	34	.306

CHASE UTLEY

SECOND BASE PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 5

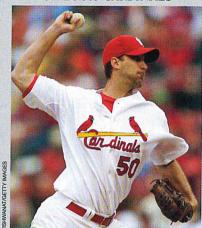
Utley thrives at Citizens Bank Park and has a .300-plus batting average at home in 2010. He also has hit most of his home runs in Philadelphia.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
264	49	73	11	37	.277

ADAM WAINWRIGHT

PITCHER ST. LOUIS CARDINALS



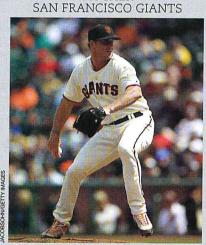
ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 1

Fast becoming a perennial Cy Young contender, Wainwright ranks among National League leaders in victories, strikeouts and innings pitched.

2010 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
17	119.1	11	5	2.34	0

BRIAN WILSON PITCHER



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 2

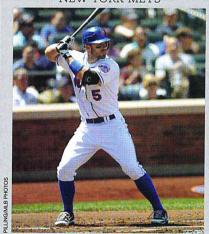
Among the NL saves leaders, Wilson posted an ERA below 2.50 in June and struck out an average of more than one batter per inning.

2010 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
31	33.0	2	0	2.18	21

DAVID WRIGHT

THIRD BASE **NEW YORK METS**



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 5

Collecting RBI at a feverish pace, Wright was the first in the NL to drive in 50 runs and is pushing for his third 30-homer, 100-RBI season.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
290	44	89	14	63	.307

CHRIS YOUNG

OUTFIELD ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 1

The speedy outfielder got off to a quick start, threatening to surpass many career highs and setting his sights on a 30-homer, 30-steal year.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
287	41	75	14	52	.261

ROSTERS SUBJECT TO CHANGE



HONORARY PRESIDENT



TRAINER Sean Cunningham Florida Marlins



TRAINER Keith Dugger Colorado Rockies

ALL-STAR GAME 2010 137

AMERICAN LEAGUE ROSTER



JOE GIRARDI MANAGER NEW YORK YANKEES

This is Girardi's first All-Star Game as a manager. Last year, his Yankees

won their 27th world championship - and first since 2000 — beating the defending champion Phillies in six games.



BOB GEREN COACH OAKLAND ATHLETICS

A Southern California native, Geren is making his first All-Star appearance

as a coach since becoming a Big League manager in 2007. In his first three seasons, he led the A's to a combined 226 victories.



MIKE SCIOSCIA

LOS ANGELES ANGELS

As the longest-tenured skipper in the AL, Scioscia helped transform the

Angels into perennial contenders after taking over in 2000. He led the club to its first-ever world championship in 2002.

ADRIAN BELTRE

THIRD BASE BOSTON RED SOX



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 1

Known for his glove work and his skills at the plate, Beltre has been a strong addition for the Sox, leading the club in several offensive stats.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
292	40	102	12	53	.349

ALL STATISTICS ARE THROUGH JULY 1, 2010

ELVIS ANDRUS

SHORTSTOP TEXAS RANGERS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 1

The speedy 21-year-old has been a fantastic leadoff man for Texas, ranking among league leaders in runs scored, steals and walks.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
295	55	86	0	24	.292

IOSE BAUTISTA OUTFIELD

TORONTO BLUE JAYS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 1

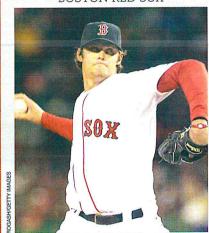
His club-record-tying 12 longballs in May and a spot among the AL home run leaders helped this former backup player assert his All-Star form.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
271	48	62	20	50	.229

CLAY BUCHHOLZ

PITCHER BOSTON RED SOX



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 1

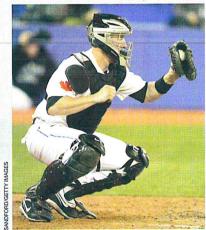
Having already surpassed his career high for victories, Buchholz is having a breakout season and is set to best his personal record for strikeouts.

2010 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV	
15	92.0	10	4	2.45	0	

IOHN BUCK

CATCHER TORONTO BLUE JAYS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 1

The veteran backstop has flourished in his first season with the Blue Jays and looks to set career highs in both home runs and runs batted in.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
209	26	55	13	40	.263

MIGUEL CABRERA

FIRST BASE DETROIT TIGERS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 5

Among the Major League leaders in batting average, home runs and RBI, the Tigers' slugger has a good shot at his first 130-RBI campaign.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
285	57	96	20	68	.337

TREVOR CAHILL

PITCHER OAKLAND ATHLETICS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 1

The 22-year-old right-hander has come into his own this season for the Athletics, carrying a solid ERA and WHIP into the All-Star break.

2010 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
13	82.0	8	2	2.74	0

ROBINSON CANO

SECOND BASE NEW YORK YANKEES



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 2

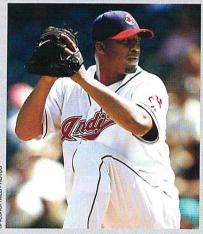
Cano earned the AL Player of the Month Award in April — hitting .400 with eight homers — and his hot play continued in the following months.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
306	57	108	16	54	.353

FAUSTO CARMONA

PITCHER CLEVELAND INDIANS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 1

Having already surpassed his wins total from a year ago, Carmona has been a bright spot on the pitching staff for the Tribe this season.

2010 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
16	102.2	7	6	3.68	0

CARL CRAWFORD

OUTFIELD TAMPA BAY RAYS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 4

The 2009 Midsummer Classic MVP is on pace to swipe 50-plus bases for the sixth time in his career and leg out at least 10 triples for the fifth time.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
287	59	91	7	39	.317

NEFTALI FELIZ PITCHER TEXAS RANGERS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 1

Averaging better than a K per inning, the rookie also ranked among AL leaders in saves by becoming the first closer in the league to lock down 20.

2010 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
35	34.1	1	1	2.62	21

ROSTERS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

AMERICAN LEAGUE ROSTER

VLADIMIR GUERRERO

DESIGNATED HITTER TEXAS RANGERS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 9

In his first year in Texas, Vlad has exceeded expectations. He's among team leaders in several offensive categories and hit 10 homers in May.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
286	51	96	18	68	.336

JOSH HAMILTON

OUTFIELD TEXAS RANGERS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 3

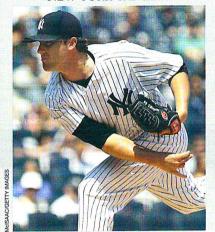
Hamilton put on a clinic in the first half, particularly in June, when he hit .454 with nine home runs, 10 doubles, a 1.297 OPS and 31 RBI.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
303	52	103	18	58	.340

PHIL HUGHES

PITCHER NEW YORK YANKEES



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 1

After earning the rotation's fifth spot, Hughes went on to lead the Yanks in most pitching stats through May and sits high on the AL wins list.

2010 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
14	88.0	10	2	3.58	0

TORII HUNTER

OUTFIELD LOS ANGELES ANGELS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 4

Renowned for his acrobatic play in the outfield, Hunter has continued his Gold Glove-caliber defense while also leading the Angels offensively.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
278	45	80	12	53	.288

DEREK JETER

SHORTSTOP NEW YORK YANKEES



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 11

"The Captain," who hit .330 with 18 runs batted in during the month of April, has batted .429 with a 1.074 OPS in 10 previous All-Star Games.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
329	51	93	8	39	.283

IAN KINSLER

SECOND BASE TEXAS RANGERS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 2

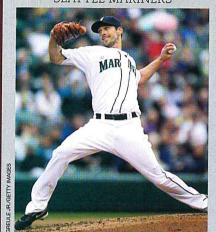
Kinsler began the season on the disabled list but came on strong in June. Over the month's last three weeks, he hit .366 with a .967 OPS.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
207	43	62	3	26	.300

ALL STATISTICS ARE THROUGH JULY 1, 2010

CLIFF LEE PITCHER SEATTLE MARINERS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 2

With an earned-run average below 3.00 entering July, Lee ranks among league leaders in the category while also posting an excellent WHIP.

2010 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
12	95.2	7	3	2.45	0

JON LESTER

PITCHER BOSTON RED SOX



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 1

Arguably the ace of the vaunted Red Sox pitching staff, the southpaw is among the Junior Circuit leaders in victories, ERA and strikeouts.

2010 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
16	107.0	9	3	2.86	0

EVAN LONGORIA

THIRD BASE TAMPA BAY RAYS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 3

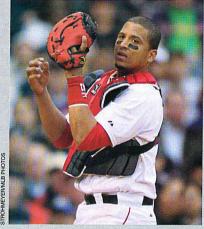
The 24-year-old has not missed a Midsummer Classic in his three-year career. This season, he ranks among the league leaders in RBI.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
301	47	88	12	54	.292

VICTOR MARTINEZ

CATCHER BOSTON RED SOX



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 4

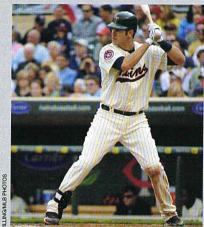
In his first full season behind the plate for the Red Sox, Martinez is among elite Big League catchers in both home runs and OPS.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
246	36	71	9	38	.289

JOE MAUER

CATCHER MINNESOTA TWINS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 4

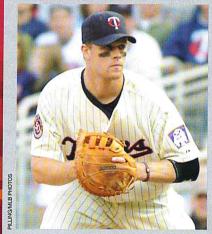
The reigning American League Most Valuable Player has been as solid as a rock behind the plate and is on pace for his first 40-double campaign.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
260	42	78	3	34	.300

JUSTIN MORNEAU

FIRST BASE MINNESOTA TWINS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 4

The 2006 AL MVP is on pace for the best season of his career. He hit .400 in May and ranks among the Major League leaders in OPS and average.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
276	49	96	16	52	.348

ROSTERS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

AMERICAN LEAGUE ROSTER

DAVID ORTIZ

DESIGNATED HITTER BOSTON RED SOX



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 6

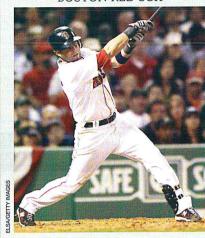
The all-time record holder for home runs as a DH grabbed the American League Player of the Month Award in May by hitting .363 with 10 homers.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
220	41	57	17	53	.259

DUSTIN PEDROIA

SECOND BASE BOSTON RED SOX



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 3

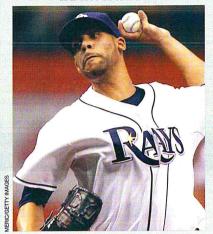
The one-time AL MVP and Rookie of the Year had been putting on a laser show at the plate in Boston before an injury sidelined him in June.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
295	52	86	12	41	.292

DAVID PRICE

PITCHER TAMPA BAY RAYS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 1

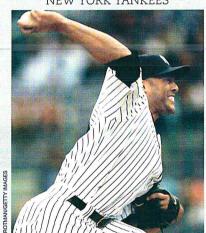
The talented 24-year-old southpaw has been priceless in the season's first half, ranking among the league leaders in victories and ERA.

2010 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
15	99.2	11	3	2.44	0

MARIANO RIVERA

PITCHER NEW YORK YANKEES



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 11

After saving the '09 All-Star Game and getting the last out in the World Series, the sport's greatest closer is among AL saves leaders this year.

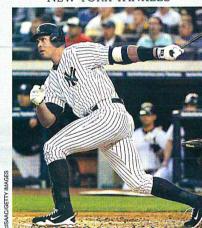
2010 STATS

21	2010 31A13						
	3	IP	W	L	ERA	SV	
3	n	30.1	2	1	0.89	18	

ALL STATISTICS ARE THROUGH JULY 1, 2010

ALEX RODRIGUEZ

THIRD BASE NEW YORK YANKEES



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 13

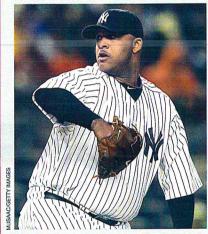
A-Rod has collected a number of big hits this season, including the blast that put him in third place on the all-time grand slams list.

2010 STATS

LUIUSIAIS						
AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG	
273	1.3	77	12	56	282	

CC SABATHIA

PITCHER NEW YORK YANKEES



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 4

The ace had a solid first half, highlighted by a .750 winning percentage through June. But beware: He's known to get even better in the second half.

2010 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
17	116.1	10	3	3.33	0

JOAKIM SORIA PITCHER KANSAS CITY ROYALS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 2 Soria converted nearly all of his save chances through June — including his 100th career save in May — to find a place among the AL leaders.

2010 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
29	29.2	0	1	2.43	20

ICHIRO SUZUKI

OUTFIELD SEATTLE MARINERS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 10
The only player to hit an inside-thepark home run in an All-Star Game,
Ichiro looks to capture his 10th Gold
Glove and 10th 200-hit year in a row.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
319	32	106	3	24	.332

MATT THORNTON

PITCHER CHICAGO WHITE SOX



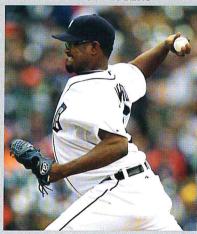
ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 1

A hard-throwing lefty at the back end of the 'pen, Thornton has been utilized as both a set-up specialist for Bobby Jenks and as a spot closer.

2010 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
32	32.2	2	3	3.03	3

JOSE VALVERDE PITCHER DETROIT TIGERS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 2

Not only does the right-hander sport a minuscule ERA and WHIP, but he also recorded 25 straight scoreless innings from April 8–June 12.

2010 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
34	34.0	1	1	0.53	18

VERNON WELLS

OUTFIELD TORONTO BLUE JAYS



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 3

Wells has seen a resurgence this season, already surpassing his home run total from 2009 and placing among league leaders in doubles.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
300	44	84	19	47	.280

TY WIGGINTON

INFIELD BALTIMORE ORIOLES



ALL-STAR SELECTIONS: 1

Already exceeding his 2009 home run total and emerging as a leader on the club, Wigginton is also on pace to set a career high in RBI.

2010 STATS

AB	R	Н	HR	RBI	AVG
260	30	67	14	42	.258

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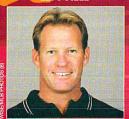
BRIAN O'NORA SECOND BASE



LAZ DIAZ THIRD BASE



BRUCE DRECKMAN LEFT FIELD



JIM WOLF RIGHT FIELD

BIRTHPLACE WT. BORN NO. PLAYER **CLUB** В Т HT. 180 12/27/82 Houston, TX 21 Michael Bourn Astros R 5-11 8 R R 200 11/17/83 Mission Hills, CA Ryan Braun Brewers 6-1 6/16/84 Dodgers R R 6-4 295 Augusta, GA 51 Jonathan Broxton R 8/30/77 Boynton Beach, FL R 6-0 245 24 Marlon Byrd Cubs 9/3/83 Douglasville, GA 55 Matt Capps Nationals R R 6-2 245 29 Chris Carpenter Cardinals R R 6-6 230 4/27/75 Exeter, NH 210 4/10/82 Phoenix, AZ 16 Andre Ethier Dodgers L L 6-2 R R 6-2 2/27/86 Michoacan, Mexico 220 49 Yovani Gallardo Brewers 5/8/82 San Diego, CA 23 Adrian Gonzalez Padres L L 6-2 225 34 Roy Halladay **Phillies** R R 6-6 230 5/14/77 Denver, CO R R 230 3/24/82 Bowling Green, KY Corey Hart Brewers 6-6 1 8/9/89 Ridgewood, NJ 22 6-5 240 Jason Heyward Braves L 1 R R 1/15/80 Stillwater, OK 6-4 235 7 Matt Holliday Cardinals 255 11/19/79 St. Louis, MO 6 Ryan Howard **Phillies** L L 6-4 Braves 15 Tim Hudson R R 6-1 175 7/14/75 Columbus, GA R R 180 12/26/81 Puerto la Cruz, Venezuela Omar Infante 6-0 4 Braves Nagua, D.R. 38 R R 210 1/22/84 Uhaldo Jimenez Rockies 6-4 6-7 Minneapolis, MN R 1/31/84 55 Josh Johnson Marlins L 250 170 6/15/84 Bellevue, WA 55 Tim Lincecum Giants L R 5-11 R 6-3 230 2/20/84 Athens, GA 16 Brian McCann Braves R R 225 5/12/83 Bellevue, WA 47 6-0 Evan Meek Pirates 5-11 R R 230 7/13/82 Bayamon, P.R. 4 Yadier Molina Cardinals Raleigh, NC R R 200 6/28/81 4 Brandon Phillips Reds 6-0 Maracay, Venezuela 14 Martin Prado Braves R R 6-1 190 10/27/83 Albert Pujols R R 230 1/16/80 Santo Domingo, D.R. 5 Cardinals 6-3 R R 2 7 Hanley Ramirez Marlins 6-3 230 12/23/83 Samana, D.R. R 200 6/11/83 Villa Gonzalez, D.R. S 6-1 Jose Reyes Mets Waco, TX 10/24/69 53 Arthur Rhodes Reds 6-2 220 27 2 Scott Rolen Reds R R 6-4 250 4/4/75 Jasper, IN Troy Tulowitzki R 10/10/84 Santa Clara, CA Rockies R 6-3 215 26 R 12/17/78 Pasadena, CA 190 Chase Utley Phillies L 6-1 50 Adam Wainwright Cardinals R R 6-7 230 8/30/81 Brunswick, GA 38 Brian Wilson Giants R R 195 3/16/82 Winchester, MA 5 David Wright Mets R R 6-0 210 12/20/82 Norfolk, VA 6-2 9/5/83 R R 200 Houston, TX 24 D-backs Chris Young

AMERICAN LEAGUE

I IIVILI (ANTONIA POR					antia allusikustastastastastastastas
NO.	PLAYER	CLUB	В	T	HT.	WT.	BORN	BIRTHPLACE
1	Elvis Andrus	Rangers	R	R	6-0	200	8/26/88	Maracay, Venezuela
19	Jose Bautista	Blue Jays	R	R	6-0	195	10/19/80	Santo Domingo, D.R.
29	Adrian Beltre	Red Sox	R	R	5-11	220	4/7/79	Santo Domingo, D.R.
11	Clay Buchholz	Red Sox	L	R	6-3	190	8/14/84	Nederland, TX
14	John Buck	Blue Jays	R	R	6-3	230	7/7/80	Kemmerer, WY
24	Miguel Cabrera	Tigers	R	R	6-4	240	4/18/83	Maracay, Venezuela
53	Trevor Cahill	Athletics	R	R	6-4	220	3/1/88	Oceanside, CA
24	Robinson Cano	Yankees	L	R	6-0	205	10/22/82	San Pedro de Macoris, D.R.
55	Fausto Carmona	Indians	R	R	6-4	230	12/7/83	Santo Domingo, D.R.
13	Carl Crawford	Rays	L	L	6-2	215	8/5/81	Houston, TX
30	Neftali Feliz	Rangers	R	R	6-3	215	5/2/88	Azua, D.R.
27	Vladimir Guerrero	Rangers	R	R	6-3	235	2/9/75	Nizao Bani, D.R.
32	Josh Hamilton	Rangers	L	L	6-4	240	5/21/81	Raleigh, NC
65	Phil Hughes	Yankees	R	R	6-5	240	6/24/86	Mission Viejo, CA
48	Torii Hunter	Angels	R	R	6-2	225	7/18/75	Pine Bluff, AR
2	Derek Jeter	Yankees	R	R	6-3	195	6/26/74	Pequannock, NJ
5	Ian Kinsler	Rangers	R	R	6-0	200	6/22/82	Tucson, AZ
36	Cliff Lee	Mariners	L	L	6-3	190	8/30/78	Benton, AR
31	Jon Lester	Red Sox	L	L	6-4	240	1/7/84	Tacoma, WA
3	Evan Longoria	Rays	R	R	6-2	210	10/7/85	Downey, CA
41	Victor Martinez	Red Sox	S	R	6-2	210	12/23/78	Ciudad Bolivar, Venezuela
7	Joe Mauer	Twins	L	R	6-5	230	4/19/83	St. Paul, MN
33	Justin Morneau	Twins	L	R	6-4	235	5/15/81	New Westminster, B.C.
34	David Ortiz	Red Sox	L	L	6-4	230	11/18/75	Santo Domingo, D.R.
15	Dustin Pedroia	Red Sox	R	R	5-9	180	8/17/83	Woodland, CA
14	David Price	Rays	L	L	6-6	225	8/26/85	Nashville, TN
42	Mariano Rivera	Yankees	R	R	6-2	185	11/29/69	Panama City, Panama
13	Alex Rodriguez	Yankees	R	R	6-3	230	7/27/75	New York, NY
52	CC Sabathia	Yankees	L	L	6-7	290	7/21/80	Vallejo, CA
48	Joakim Soria	Royals	R	R	6-3	200	5/18/84	Monclova, Mexico
51	Ichiro Suzuki	Mariners	L	R	5-11	170	10/22/73	Kasugai, Japan
37	Matt Thornton	White Sox	L	L	6-6	235	9/15/76	Three Rivers, MI
46	Jose Valverde	Tigers	R	R	6-4	255	3/24/78	San Pedro de Macoris, D.R.
10	Vernon Wells	Blue Jays	R	R	6-1	230	12/8/78	Shreveport, LA
23	Ty Wigginton	Orioles	R	R	6-0	230	10/11/77	San Diego, CA













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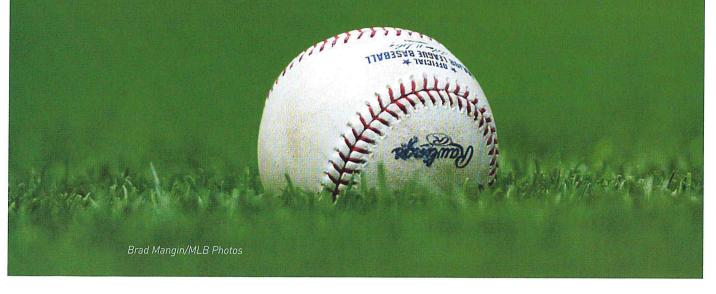


POETRY IN MOTION

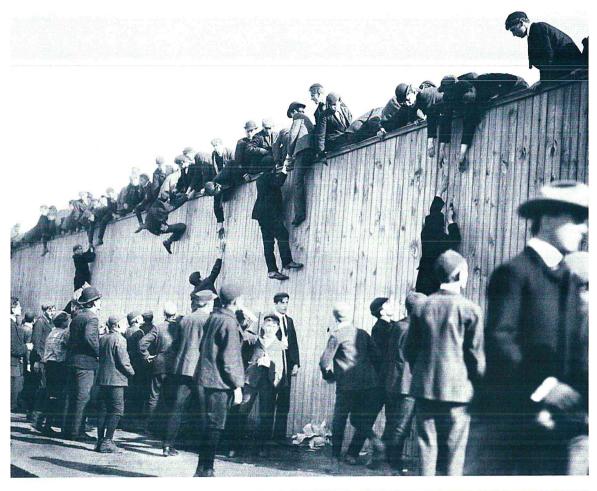
There's something magical about the way that baseball photography can stop time, freezing a swing mid-plane, showing the individual seams on a spinning fastball and capturing the fright in the pitcher's eyes as his offering catches too much plate. Maybe it's not unique to baseball; the idea of a camera suspending motion is hardly new. But in this game more than any other, the artistry is historic and the history is art. For every memorable photo of a milestone in action — Babe Ruth cracking a home run, the New York Giants celebrating post–Shot Heard 'Round The World — there are plenty more that capture the simple beauty of the mundane — Ted Williams giving an impromptu hitting lesson, a crash at home plate in an otherwise forgettable game.

The pictures on the following pages all come from *The Official Major League Baseball Opus*, a monumental chronicle of the game's history. The massive 75-pound, 790-page collection features approximately 1,000 photos and 110,000 words, encompassing all that has happened on the diamond from the 1800s through today.

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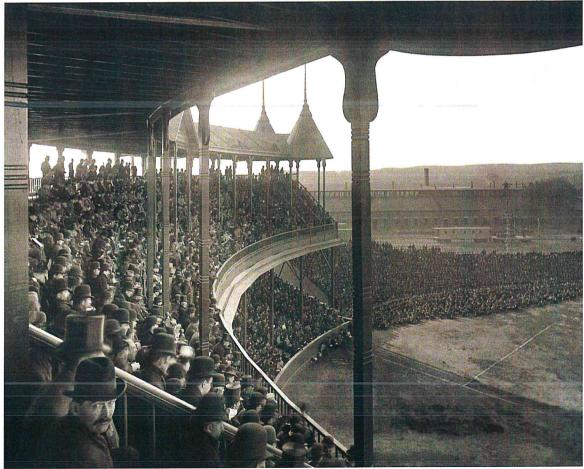


POETRY IN MOTION



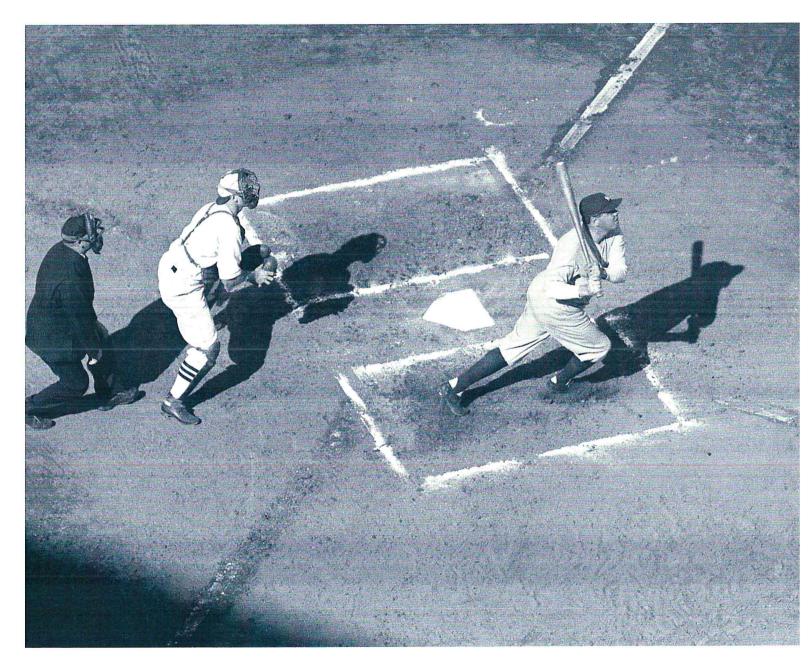
Fans at the 1903 World Series. Boston Public Library

A game at Boston's South End Grounds in 1888. NBLA/MLB Photos





Fans line up for hot dogs outside the Ebbets Field gates. Library of Congress



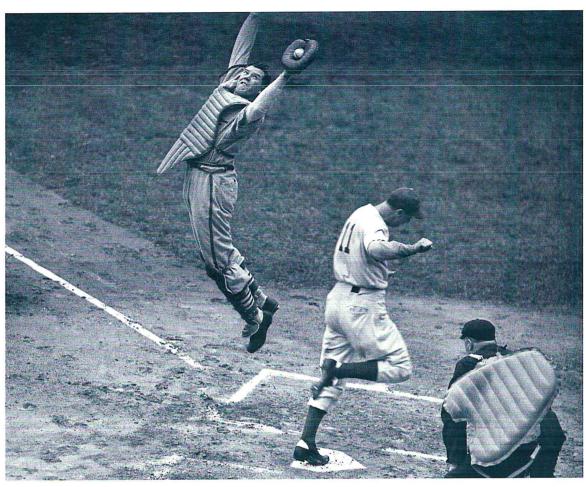
Babe Ruth homers in 1926. Bettmann/Corbis

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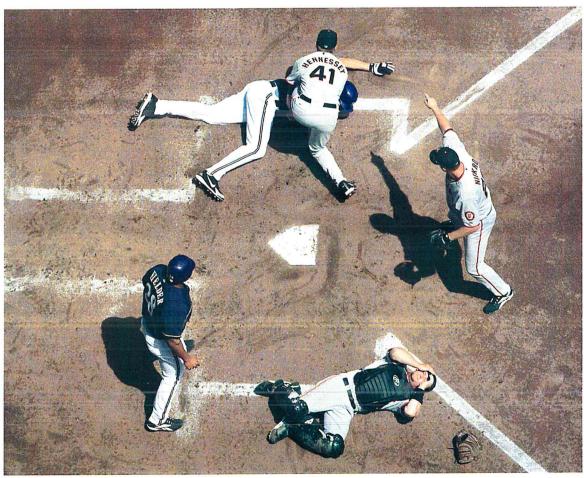
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POETRY IN MOTION



The Dodgers' Dixie Walker scores in 1940. New York Daily News

Chaos after a home-plate collision. John Biever/Sports Illustrated/Getty Images





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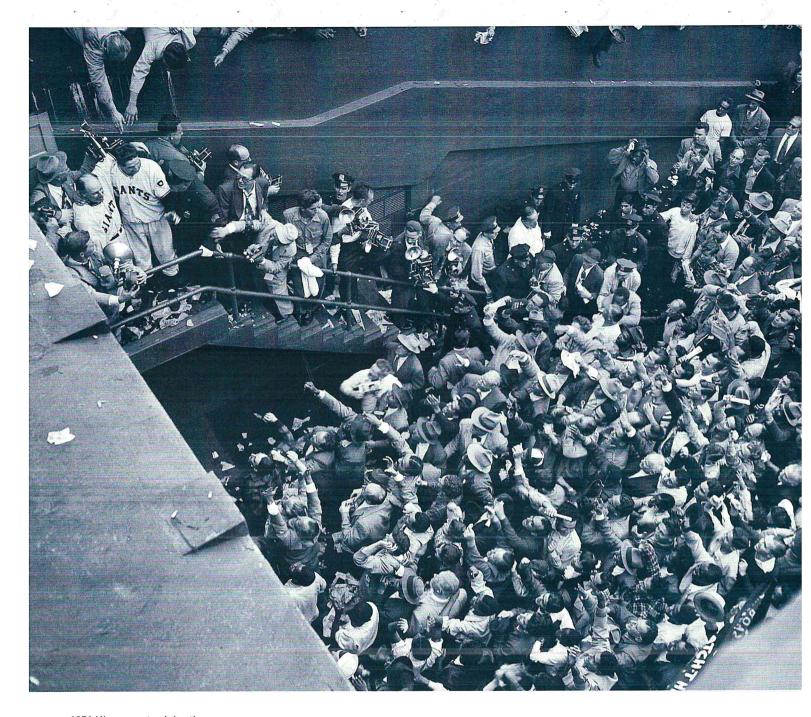
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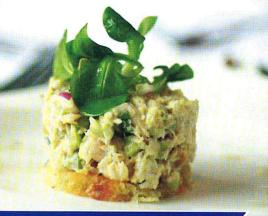


1951 NL pennant celebration.

Bettmann/Corbis

POETRY IN MOTION







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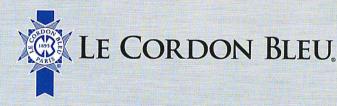
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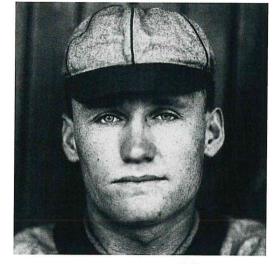


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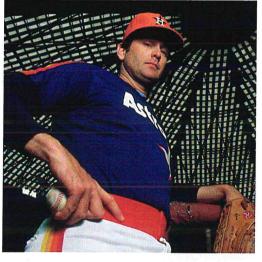
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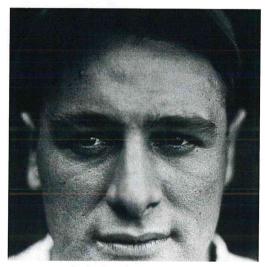




Willie Mays John G. Zimmerman/ Sports . Illustrated/ Getty Images

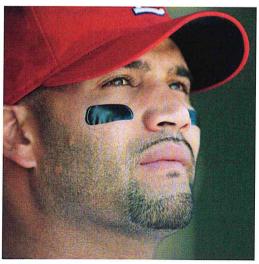
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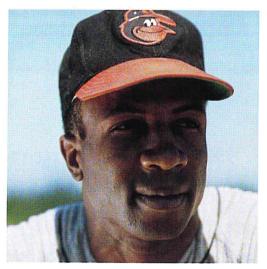




Lou Gehrig Charles M. Conlon/TSN Archives

Nolan Ryan Andy Hayt/ Sports Illustrated/ Getty Images



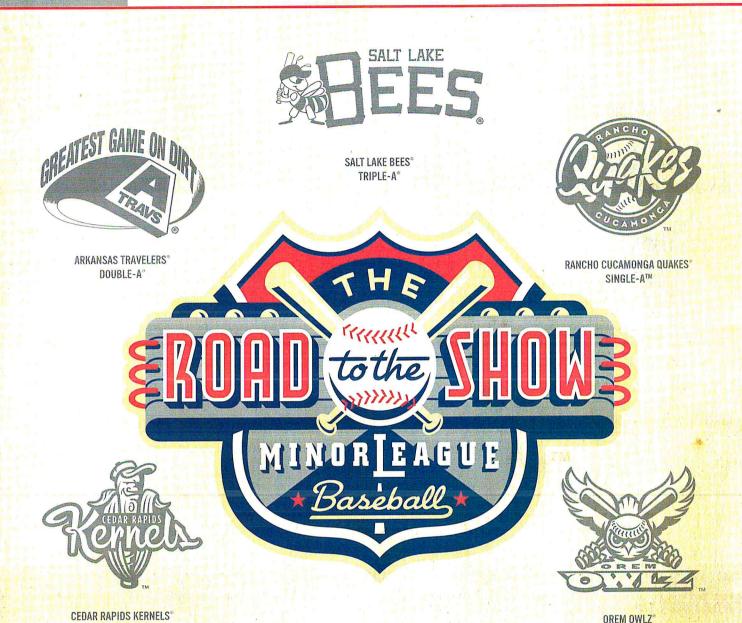


Frank Robinson Ozzie Sweet



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Ted Williams talks hitting in 1956. Hy Peskin/Sports Illustrated/Getty Images



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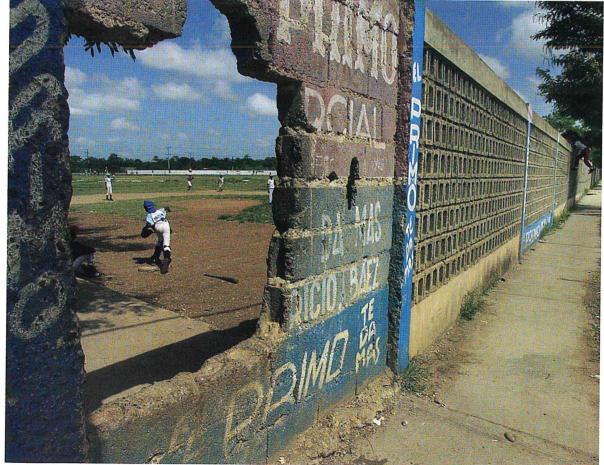


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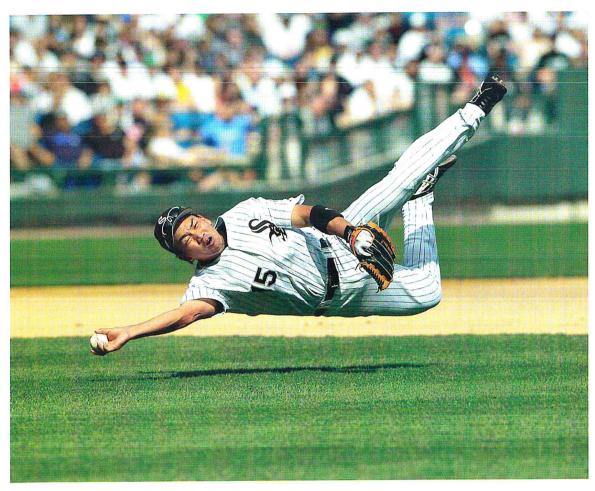


Military crew members practice for an inter-ship ballgame in 1935. Hulton-Deutsch Collection/Corbis



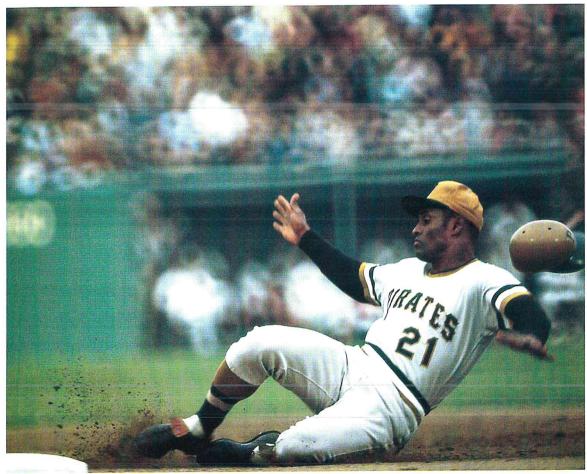


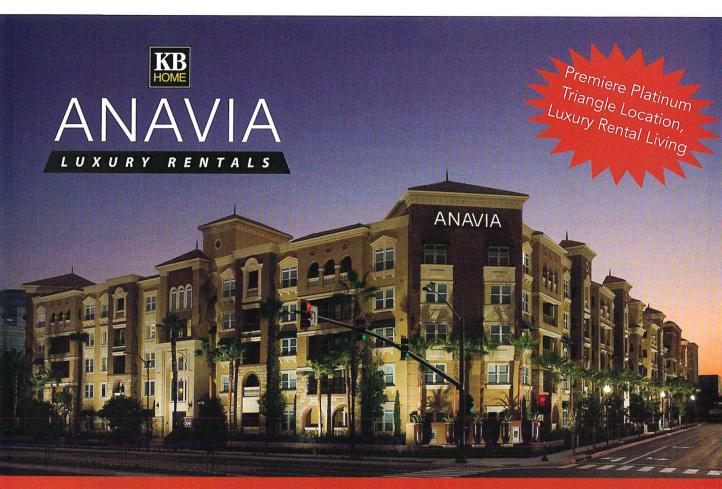
POETRY IN MOTION



Tadahito Iguchi throws to first. David Durochik/ SportPics

Roberto Clemente during the 1971 World Series. Walter looss Jr./Sports Illustrated/Getty Images



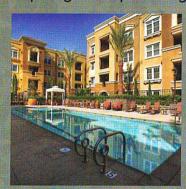


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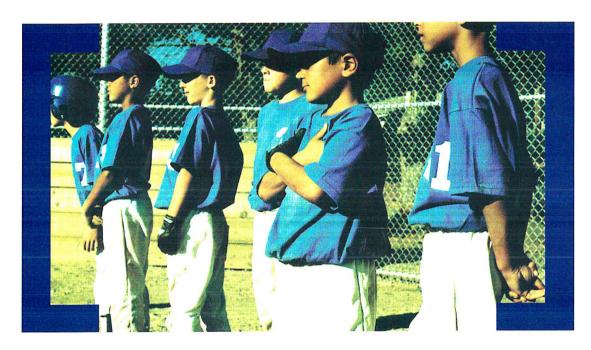
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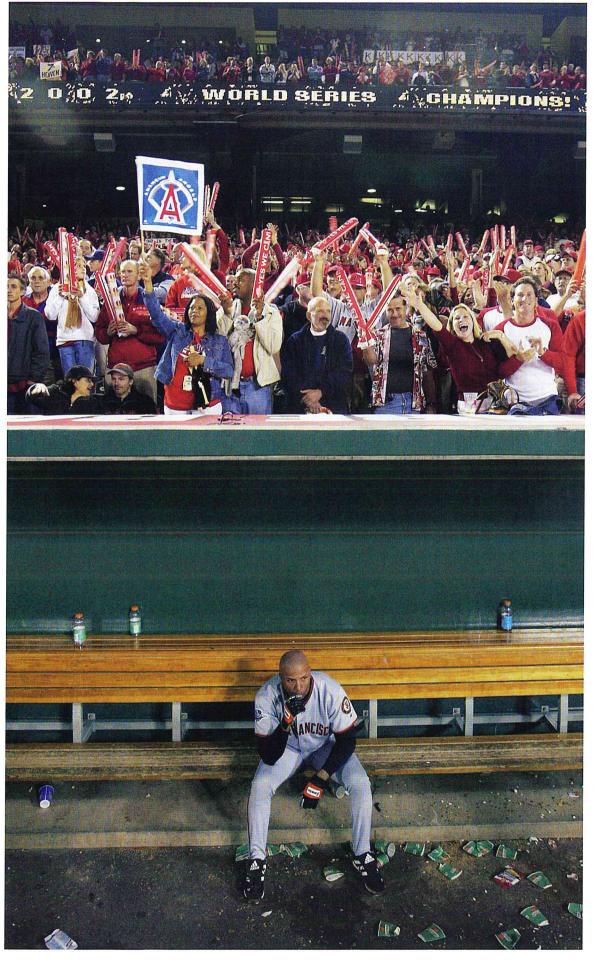
Their favorite players are in this program.

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POETRY IN MOTION



Angels fans celebrate their 2002 world title over the Giants while Tom Goodwin contemplates what could have been. Chris Stewart/San Francisco Chronicle/ Corbis



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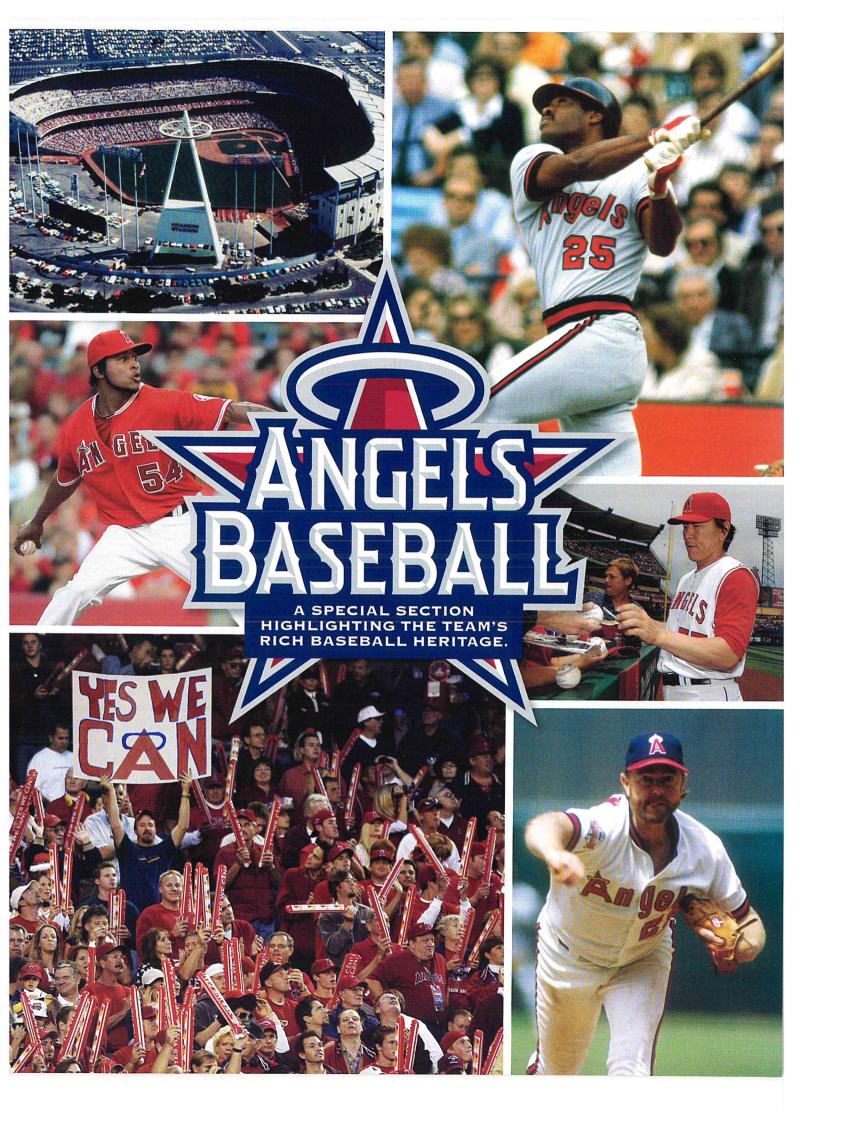


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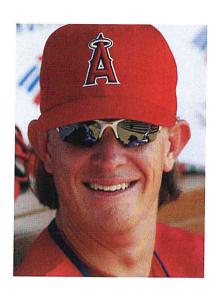


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NGELS STARTING PITCHER JERED WEAVER GREW UP IN California on surfing, beaches and baseball. Those were good times, but his most treasured memories were family trips to Anaheim. The Weaver clan — parents Dave and Gail and older brother Jeff, now a relief pitcher for the Los

Angeles Dodgers — used to make the 75-mile drive from their Northridge home to Anaheim at least once every summer.

Some of Weaver's cousins from Oregon would meet them in Anaheim, as well. It was a family tradition that everyone looked forward to. Anaheim, after all, is home to the self-proclaimed happiest place on earth: Disneyland.

"You couldn't sleep the night before the trip because you were excited about getting up in the morning," Weaver says. "It was like Christmas when you were a kid. I remember being excited to go every time we went."

Most children can't wait until they're tall enough to ride the most exciting attractions at theme parks. As an adult, Weaver's trips to Disneyland pose different problems — mainly in shrinking legroom for the long-limbed hurler. But that didn't stop him and his girlfriend from visiting last year.

"The legroom is definitely small. It's kind of weird," Weaver says. "Before, I used to fit in everything. Now, I'm 6-foot-7. And there were obviously a lot of young people floating around there, but it was still cool."

His view of Disneyland has certainly changed from when he was a kid. He used to stroll the park with his parents since Jeff, who is six years older, was allowed to explore on his own. Weaver and his girlfriend had fun, but they stayed for just a few hours. When he was a kid, Disneyland was a vaca-

tion, an all-day, everyday affair.

One of Weaver's favorite rides is Space Mountain, where a rocket-like vehicle takes kids — and kids at heart — through outer space in the Magic Kingdom. He's also a longtime devotee of the

Matterhorn Bobsleds, in which two intertwining roller coasters travel through icy and snowy mountain caverns.

It doesn't matter your age, hometown or set of interests — Disney has made it a point to entertain the spectrum, having continuously expanded its California metropolis known as Disneyland Resort since the park doors originally opened in 1955. And it added California Adventure, located next to Disneyland, in 2001. The fantasyland destination may have put Anaheim on the

ALL-STAR GAME 2010 169



world map, drawing visitors from all over the globe, but the home of the Los Angeles Angels has other tourism muscles to flex, too - including more theme parks, more sports teams, posh restaurants and, of course, easy access to sunny beaches.

THE CITY OF ANAHEIM WAS FOUNDED IN 1857 BY GRAPE FARMERS

and wine makers. It takes its name from both local and German roots: The word "Ana" comes from the Santa Ana River and "heim" is a German word for home. Situated in well-known Orange County, the city was once surrounded by orange groves.

Mel Franks is the senior associate athletics director for

media relations at Cal State Fullerton in addition to being a part-time official scorer for the Angels and an unofficial Anaheim historian. Franks grew up in Buena Park, which is adjacent to Anaheim, and he remembers the orange groves well. If you know the place inside and out like he does, you know that the

magic of the area's playlands is always in sight. As a kid, Franks knew the perfect climbing spot to watch the Disneyland fireworks. Buena Park is also the home of Knott's Berry Farm amusement park world-renowned for its thrilling roller coasters and homemade jellies. When Angels fans are biting their fingernails with playoff jitters during the month of October, the park appropriately turns into a haunted wonderland known as Knott's Scary Farm.

"THE WHOLE AREA OF ORANGE COUNTY IS LIKE A BIG, LITTLE COMMUNITY. THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE AROUND AND SO MUCH BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY HERE, BUT IT'S A VERY RELAXED ATMOSPHERE. I THINK IT'S A GREAT FAMILY ENVIRONMENT. IT'S KIND OF SLOWER PACED. I ENJOY IT.'

-MIKE SCIOSCIA

Buena Park is just a small neighbor, but Anaheim, with an estimated population of nearly 350,000, is the second-largest city in Orange County. Only Santa Ana is bigger. Reality television fans of course know Orange County for its ritz and glamor thanks to shows like Laguna Beach and The Real Housewives of Orange County, the latter of which is set in Coto de Caza.

Hall of Famer and former Angel Rod Carew lives in Coto de Caza, a private, gated community. Anaheim Hills is another upscale part of the city, attractive to the large number of celebrities and athletes who make their home in the area. Anaheim is hardly the

Beverly Hills of Orange County, but it is a

gathering place for millions of people from all over the world.

For sports fans in Southern California, there's no better place to gather than around a field of competition. The Honda Center is home to the National Hockey League's Anaheim Ducks, created by the Walt Disney Company in 1993, and formerly called the Mighty Ducks after the feature film of the same name. And of course, Angel Stadium, long referred to as the "Big A," is the place the Angels have called home since 1966. The stadium,

> which is located on Gene Autry Way, was renovated in 1998 and includes the Outfield Extravaganza - a spectacle that celebrates the excitement on the field. It's the real signature piece of Angel Stadium, mirroring and bringing to life the rocky California coastline.

The water of the Pacific is everything to Californians.

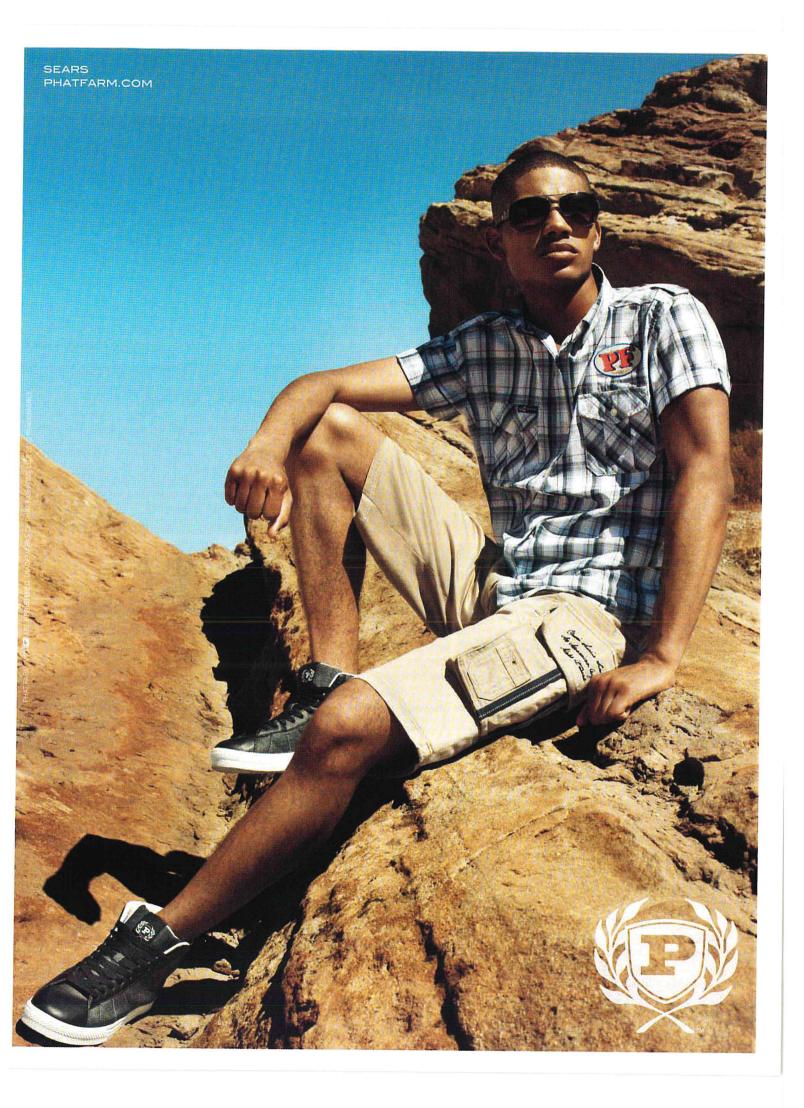
Whether you want to surf or just bask, SoCal beaches are famous for a reason, and are prime places to take up residence for the day, be it Huntington Beach, Newport Beach, Laguna Beach, Seal Beach, Santa Monica or Malibu. Weaver lives in Long Beach, which is about 15 miles from Anaheim. He bought a

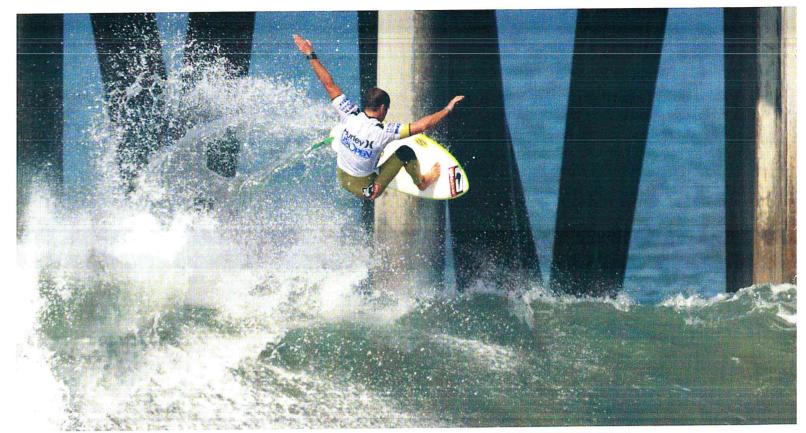


THEME PARKS

Southern California is a thrill-seeker's paradise.

- 1. Disneyland
- 2. Knott's Berry Farm
- 3. Universal Studios
- 4. Six Flags Magic Mountain
- 5. Wild Rivers Waterpark









BEACHES

Sand, waves, boardwalks — Cali beaches are a must-visit for vacationers.

- 1. Huntington
- 2. Laguna
- 3. Newport
- 4. Malibu
- 5. Balboa

Southern California is famous for its amazing beaches, including Huntington (top), Laguna (bottom left) and Balboa. house there last year, and the beach is just 70 yards from his front door.

"I like the community. It's not highstrung," Weaver says. "It's really low key. You see the same people every day."

These days, Weaver no longer looks

the part of a surfer, having cut the long curly locks that used to flow under his cap. He chopped his hair last year and stopped surfing during the baseball season. But still a beach burn at heart, he knows the best places to catch a wave, like 54th Street in Huntington Beach, where you can find him body boarding.

"Huntington is my favorite beach to surf just because it's closer, but if the waves aren't good, I'll go to Newport instead," Weaver says. "Huntington is nice because of the beach scene. There's a bunch of people there in the summer. It's nice to go check it out. It's relaxing."

Weaver lived in Newport Beach in 2009 and when he cut his hair, people stopped recognizing him. He was more comfortable in Long Beach — where he played college baseball as a Long Beach State 49er — so he moved back.

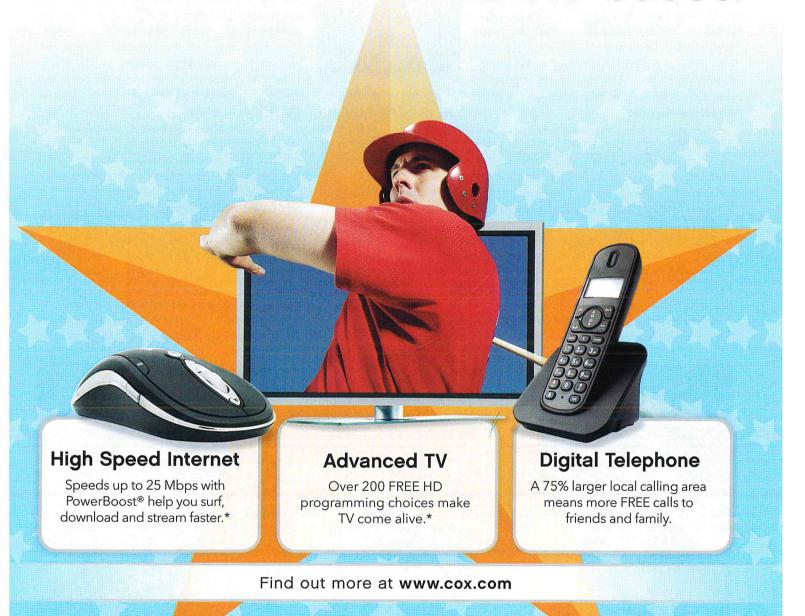
As long as Weaver is near the sand, all is well. As a kid, he spent most weekends at Silver Strand Beach in Ventura County.

"We were about a half hour away, and my dad would take my brother and me down there," Weaver says. "We grew up going

"WE GREW UP GOING TO THE BEACH ON THE WEEKENDS. THAT STUCK WITH ME. I LOVED IT. I LOVED BEING OUT IN THE WATER, JUST RELAXING AND CATCHING A WAVE EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE. IT'S PRETTY COOL."

—JERED WEAVER ₹

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MY TOWN

to the beach on the weekends. That stuck with me. I loved it. I loved being out in the water, just relaxing and catching a wave every once in a while. It's pretty cool."

The Long Beach area is probably most famous for housing the Queen Mary, an ocean liner that sailed the North Atlantic Ocean from the 1930s to the 1960s. It retired from service in 1967, and now serves as a historic icon, hotel and museum. Ghosts were rumored to haunt some spots on the ship after it retired, making it the perfect place for Halloween mazes.

ANGELS MANAGER MIKE SCIOSCIA IS ALSO FOND of the undisturbed California vibe. Scioscia and his family live in Westlake Village, which is not

far from Simi Valley, where Weaver grew up. Scioscia was a longtime catcher for the Dodgers, and his wife, Anne, hails from Southern California.

"The whole area of Orange County is like a big, little community," Scioscia says. "There are so many people around and so much business and industry here, but it's a very relaxed atmosphere. I think it's a great family environment. But it's kind of slower paced. I enjoy it."

The freeways system, however, can be anything but relaxing for those with harried commutes. Scioscia has what would seem



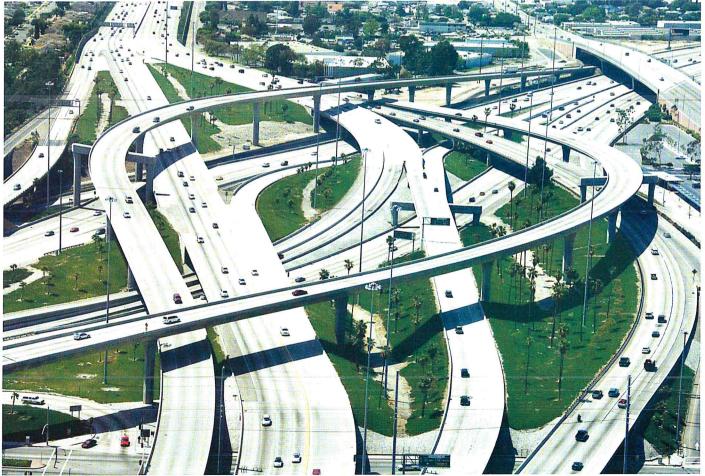
Stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, like that of one-time Angels owner Gene Autry, are as much a SoCal scene as the freeways' maniacal ramps. a nightmare trek, but he likes his solo time in the car and knows the freeway system well by this point. For traffic updates, you can turn your speed dial to Scioscia. He commutes from his home in Westlake to Anaheim nearly every day, but he also has a home in Balboa Island, where his family sometimes stays on the weekends. Scioscia's daughter, Taylor, just finished her senior year at Louisville High School in Woodland Hills, Calif., so Scioscia was able to see her in the mornings before he would head to work. His son, Matthew, is in college.

"I love the drive. It's about 75 miles," Scioscia says. "When I get to the ballpark, I've already had my time to prepare. I can make my phone calls if I need to get some things accomplished. I'm

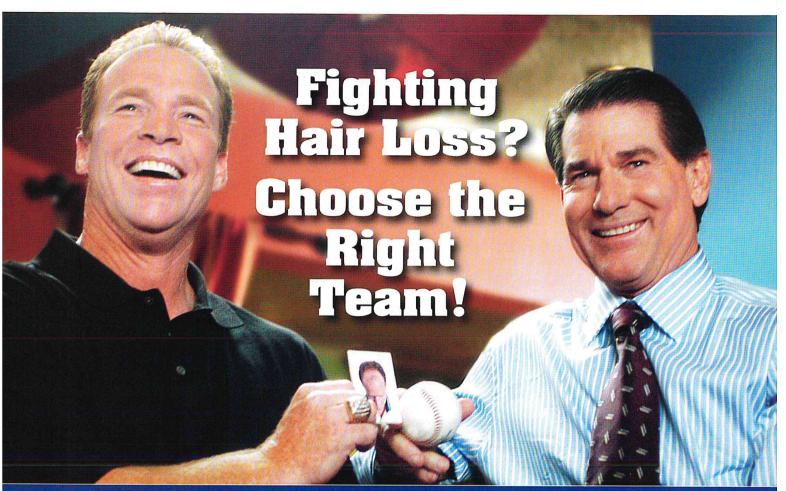
ready to go when I get to the ballpark. I really enjoy it."

Scioscia usually travels the 101 Freeway to the 405 to the 22 to get to Angel Stadium, and going home he takes the 5 to the 91 to the 605 to the 105 to the 405, using the journey to go over post-game thoughts. After navigating all those routes, juggling the lineup must seem like a warm California breeze. But no matter how much Scioscia cherishes his drive, traffic is always a threat to the people of Anaheim on the road to Disneyland.

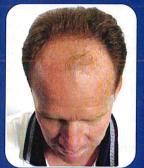
"I remember traffic backed up for miles. It was two lanes and all country roads," Franks recalls. Nowadays, it's hard to imagine

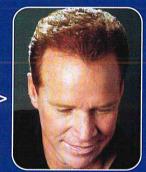


ANGELES ANGELS/MLB PHOTOS (STAR); 34/COMSTOCK

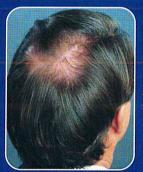


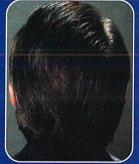
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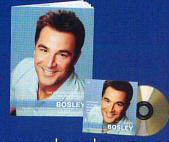
"I remember how the guys in the locker room used to kid me about my 'perfect hair.' Well, time has a way of changing things. My hair may have looked the same from the front, but the top and back were going fast! When I played in the majors, I always hated losing and I hate losing now. I decided to step up to the plate and take action against my hair loss. I had my hair restoration at Bosley, and you can see how great the results are!"- Steve Garvey

"I used to hide my hair under my hat for years as a ballplayer. Thanks to Bosley, now I can leave that hat at home!"- Rex Hudler

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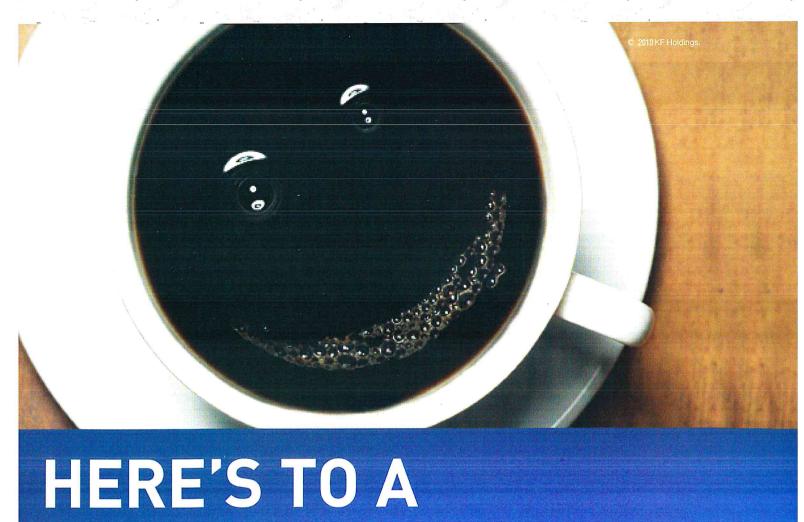
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since the sprawling I-5 is the main freeway to Disneyland, Angel Stadium and shopping areas.

Scioscia usually leaves his home around 12:30 p.m. but sometimes his departure time is earlier so he can stop for lunch. Scioscia's favorite Orange County seafood restaurant is the Crab Cooker, which he claims has the "best fish in the world." On his way to the game, he'll usually stop at one of two Crab Cooker locations, in either Newport Beach or Tustin. He usually orders fish chowder as an appetizer and skewered lobster prepared on the grill. Exquisite seafood and popular bars are plentiful around Southern California. Mr. Stox on Katella Avenue in Anaheim is an upscale restaurant specializing in seafood, and it's a favorite of locals. The Catch is a longtime sports bar favorite for Angels fans, located on Katella as well.

Despite its reputation for fierce health consciousness, Southern California is also a haven for fast-food lovers. But West Coasters seem to hold this type of cuisine to a different standard entirely, boasting of not only the area's Jack in the Box and

From 1936–1967, the RMS Queen Mary sailed the Atlantic Ocean, but now it's a museum and hotel in Long Beach.

IN-N-OUT



The secret's kind of out on their not-so-secret menu, but since you won't find these goodies listed inside the restaurant, here are some extra items to remember on your trip to In-N-Out. For full descriptions, visit in-n-out.com.

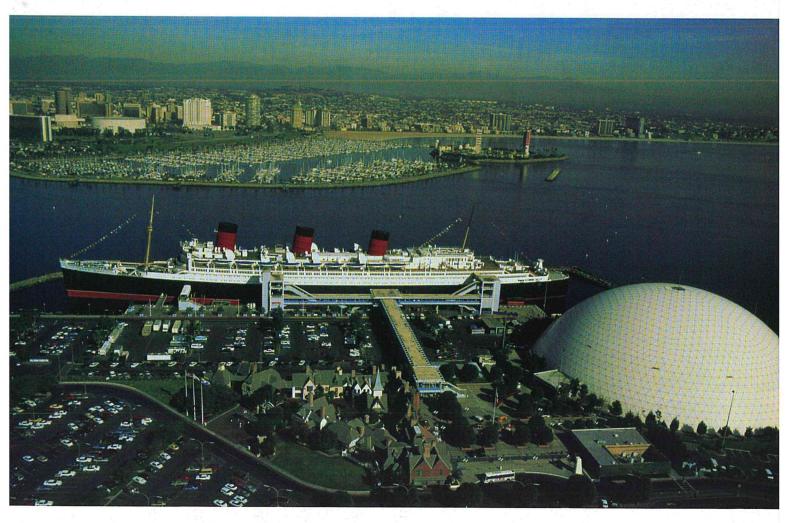
- 1.3x3
- 2. 4x4
- 3. Grilled Cheese
- 4. Protein Style
- 5. Animal Style

Carl's Jr. locations, but also of the "always fresh, never frozen" In-N-Out Burger, a chain whose nationwide recognition despite a regional availability should speak to its quality.

Like Scioscia, Weaver is also one to eat at the same place — Riley's on Second Street in Long Beach — every day on his way to the ballpark. Baseball players are all about routine, and Weaver's gameplan usually includes sandwiches from this eatery that happens to be owned by a friend.

What isn't in Weaver's routine is much clothes shopping; he has a simple surfer image. When he does shop it's mainly at Pac Sun, a casual clothing store catered to young people. But if Weaver liked to shop until he dropped, he'd be in the right place. Orange County boasts the upscale South Coast Plaza Mall in Costa Mesa. For really pricey threads or some of the world's most entertaining people-watching, Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills draws visitors from all over. Window-shopping is a good exercise in jaw-dropping and eye-squinting at astronomical price tags, and there's sure to be paparazzi around for celebrity sightings.

If you can't spot a celeb out shopping, there's always the Hollywood Walk of Fame, with names





of actors and characters and their stars lining Hollywood Boulevard and Vine Street. On Hollywood Boulevard, you can catch a bus for the Hollywood homes tour. When Ronald Reagan was alive, tour buses weren't allowed to stop in front of his home or the Secret Service would come out and scold drivers. For a more lasting impression of Reagan, Weaver's hometown of Simi Valley is home to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, one of 13 in the country. Richard Nixon's presidential library is in Yorba Linda, just about 10 miles from Angel Stadium.

The main attraction of many cities is the downtown area, but that's not the case in Anaheim. The city bulldozed its downtown in the '80s. Now the area is known as the Colonial District, which has administrative and historical buildings — but not very much buzz. The heart of Anaheim is found on Harbor Boulevard near Disneyland, and much of the action is on or just off Katella.

For a thriving downtown area, Los Angeles is where it's at. Downtown L.A. once was a place to

The Santa Monica Pier is yet another popular stop for locals and visitors alike, offering a multitude of activities.



COLLEGE BASEBALL

The college baseball season doesn't go all the way through the summer, but catching the following teams — some of the top programs in the country — is a good reason to come back next spring.

- 1. Cal State Fullerton Titans
- 2. Long Beach State 49ers
- 3. UC Irvine Anteaters
- 4. Southern California
 Trojans
- 5. UCLA Bruins

avoid, but with the opening of Staples Center — where the NBA's Los Angeles Lakers and Clippers both play, along with the NHL's L.A. Kings — in 1999, a more welcoming trend began. Across from Staples Center on Chick Hearn Court — named after the late longtime Lakers broadcaster — is L.A. Live, an entertainment complex with bars, restaurants and the Lucky Strike bowling alley, as well as the Nokia Theatre, which attracts top stars for concerts. The complex revived downtown Los Angeles and put it on par with the likes of most other hopping big-city downtown areas. The J.W. Marriott and Ritz-Carlton hotels just opened across from Staples Center, too.

The development of downtown L.A. signals a widening of the area's welcome gates, always offering more, and certainly always planning more, for its residents and visitors. Still, every city has a door to its soul, and people flock there no matter the pull of the up-and-coming. For L.A. it might be the Staples Center or Grauman's Chinese Theatre. In Anaheim it's most certainly the front gates of Disneyland. •

Jill Painter is a columnist for the L.A. Daily News.



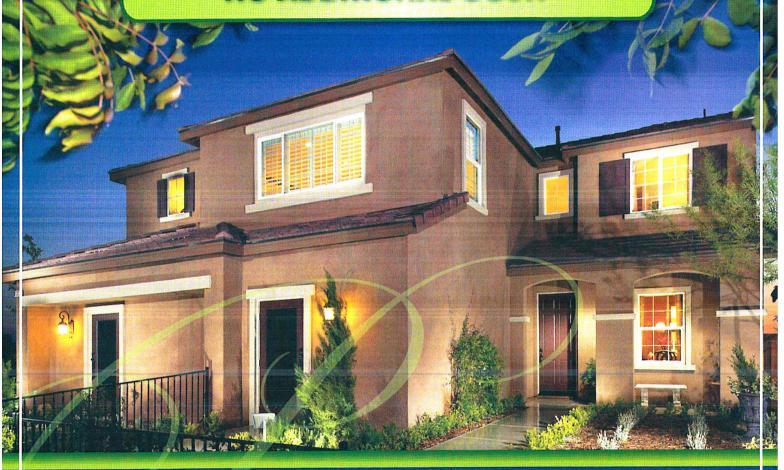
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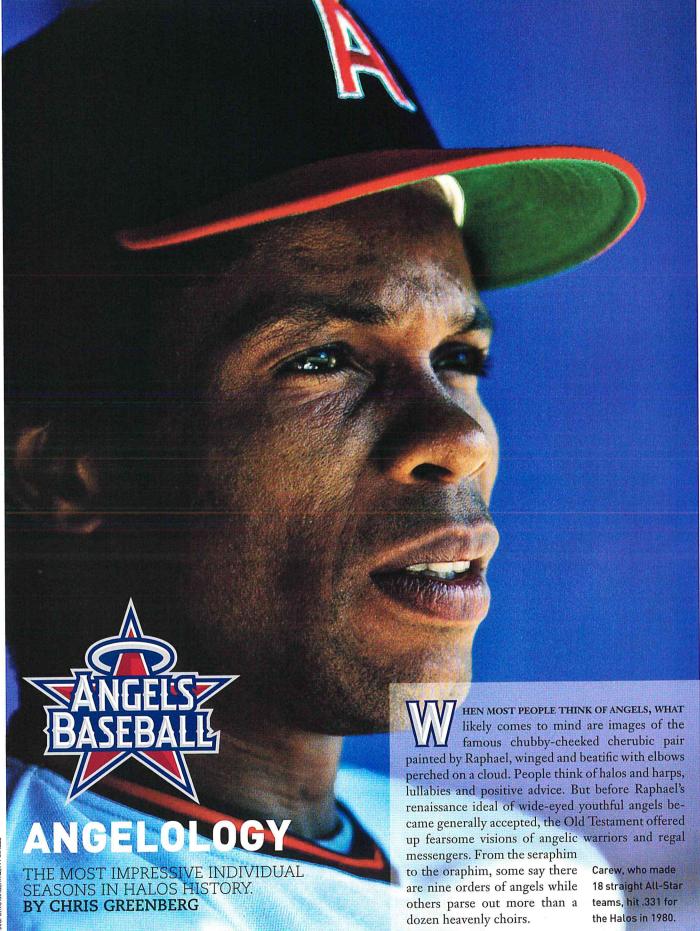
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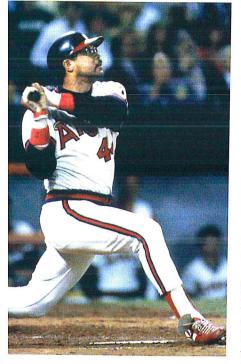
Since 1961, a late-arriving species of Angels has dwelled in Southern California — perhaps the closest place to Heaven on Earth — and have been treating baseball fans to feats nearly as impressive as those of their biblical namesakes. Rather than laying waste to sinful cities and delivering world-changing missives, these Angels have been flame-throwing strikeout artists, lights-out closers, mashing power hitters, flashy fielders and gritty, workaday fan favorites. The following are their most awe-inspiring single-season performances.

ROD CAREW, 1980

THE PANAMA-BORN and New York-raised Rod Carew was already a surefire Hall of Famer when he arrived in Southern California via trade before the 1979 season. Carew had been selected to the All-Star Game in each of his first 12 Major League seasons (his streak would eventually reach 18, receiving the honor in all but his last season), won seven American League batting crowns, led the Junior Circuit in hits and intentional walks on three occa-

sions, stole 40 bases twice, and won both Rookie of the Year and MVP awards.

Carew had come a long way from when he was discovered by a Twins scout while playing semi-pro sandlot ball in the Bronx, but he was determined to show Angels fans that he wasn't ready to hang up his spikes yet. In 1980, Carew used his loose grip and signature batting stance to rake at a .331 clip, while leading the Halos in hits, triples, doubles and steals.



Jackson's 39 homers in 1982 helped lead the Angels to the postseason.

REGGIE JACKSON, 1982

HAVING WON WORLD titles and stirred controversy on both coasts, Reggie Jackson was brought to SoCal by Owner Gene Autry — quite a showman himself — to bolster a team that was three years removed from

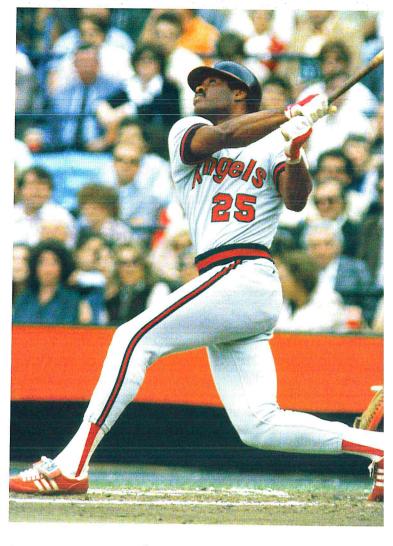
its 1979 AL West title. And the bombastic slugger didn't disappoint, authoring a third act to his Hall of Fame career.

Jackson clouted an American League-leading 39 home runs in his first season playing at the "Big A." He knocked in more

than 100 runs that season and scored nearly as many, while earning his 12th All-Star selection and second Silver Slugger Award.

True to his nickname, Jackson helped get the Angels back to the big October stage. The club won a franchise-record 93 games in Jackson's

UNLIKE THEIR NAMESAKES, THESE ANGELS HAVE BEEN FLAME-THROWING STRIKEOUT ARTISTS, LIGHTS-OUT CLOSERS, MASHING POWER HITTERS, FLASHY FIELDERS AND GRITTY, WORKADAY FAN FAVORITES.



SoCal baseball fans can be happy that Baylor chose baseball over his other love, football. first season in town and reached the American League Championship Series before the Brewers brought them back down to earth.

DON BAYLOR, 1979

OFFERED A SPOT on the University of Texas football team out of high school, Don Baylor had a chance to make history as the first African-American ever to play football at the school. But he passed on the gridiron because he believed he had a higher calling: baseball.

The hard-nosed Baylor was unafraid of crowding the plate and at times bristled at being the designated hitter. Yet his ability to DH, play first base and contribute in the outfield kept him in the lineup for every game in 1979. Baylor took the AL MVP Award that year, as he led the Majors in runs scored and RBI, and ranked fourth in the Junior Circuit in longballs. His prodigious output also lifted the Angels to their first AL West title.

NOLAN RYAN, 1973

WHEN THE ANGELS debuted in the American League in 1961,

they finished with the best winning percentage by an expansion club. The next season, a hard-swinging rookie shortstop named Jim Fregosi kept the upstarts in the thick of the pennant race late into the summer. Although Fregosi would become the face of the franchise during the club's early years,

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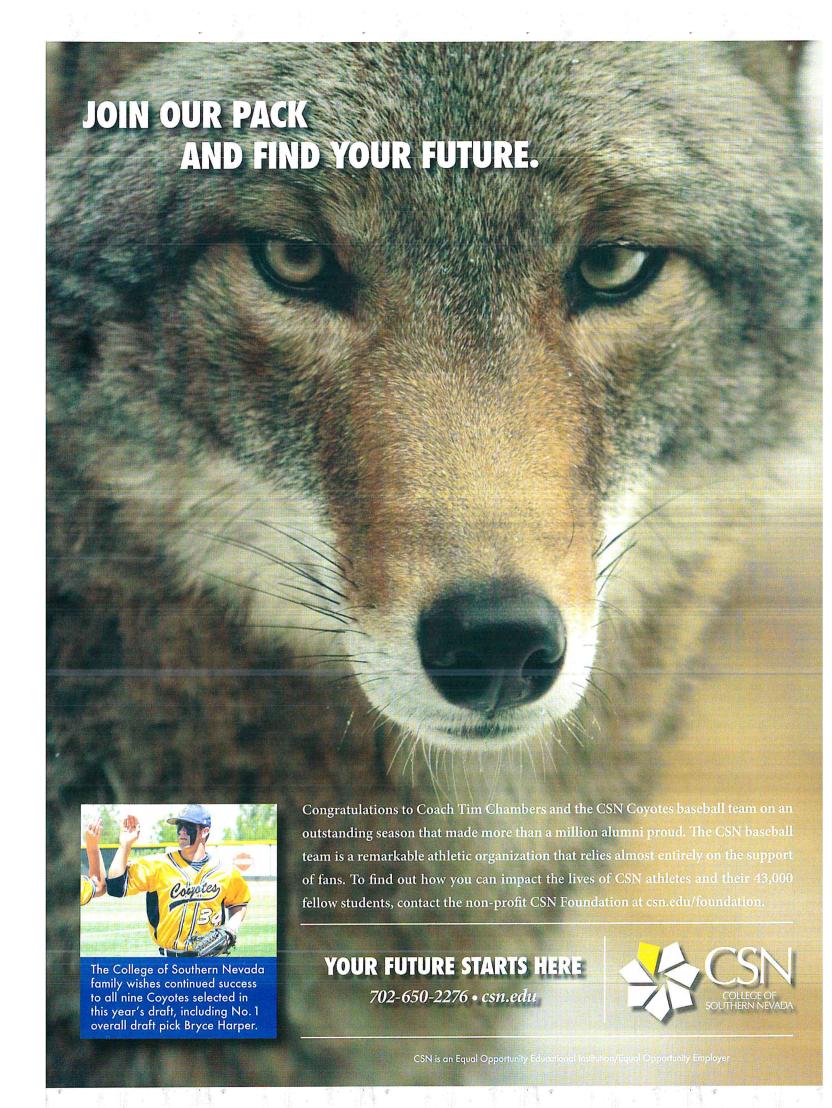
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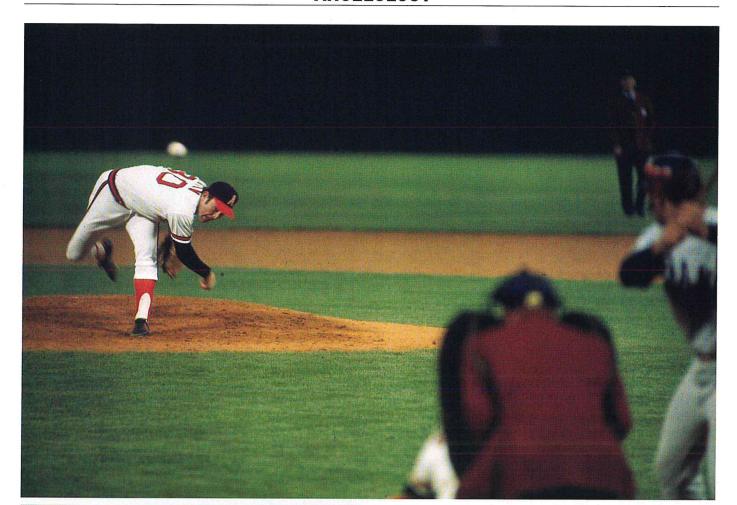


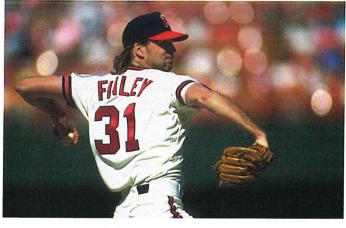
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his biggest contribution may have come when he was traded to the Mets in December 1971 in exchange for four players. One of them was a talented but inconsistent hurler out of Alvin, Texas, named Nolan Ryan.

The right-hander, who had never been able to find consistent work with the Mets, fulfilled all the potential that had scouts drooling over him since his high school days. He led the Junior Circuit in strikeouts in seven of his eight seasons with the Angels and established himself as the premier flame-thrower in the game. In 1973, Ryan twirled the first two no-hitters of his Hall of Fame career, becoming just the fifth pitcher ever to accomplish the feat twice in a single season.

Ryan (top) set his career on the Cooperstown track when he joined the Angels. Finley had a volatile heater and was a five-time All-Star. "Every hitter likes fastballs just like everybody likes ice cream. But you don't like it when someone's stuffing it into you by the gallon," Reggie Jackson quipped. "That's how you feel when Nolan Ryan is throwing balls by you."

CHUCK FINLEY, 1990

LEFT-HANDED PITCHERS who can throw strikes will almost always find a job in the Major Leagues. And left-handed pitchers who can strike people out will almost always find their way to the All-Star Game. A five-time selection to the Midsummer Classic, Chuck Finley mixed his fastball with a devastating forkball to become one of the top left-handed power pitchers of the 1990s. A wild child as volatile off the field as his heater was in the strike zone, Finley enjoyed perhaps his best campaign with the Angels in 1990, when he went 18-9 with a 2.40 ERA.

WALLY JOYNER, 1986

EVEN VETERAN ANGELS masher Reggie Jackson, a man who had described himself as "the best in baseball" in one of his autobiographies, had to admit that he — like the rest of the league — was living in Wally's World in 1986.

Wally Joyner, the Angels' slugging first-year phenomenon, managed to stand out from the crowd in a power-laden freshman class that season, hitting 22 homers and driving in 100 runs

ANGELOLOGY

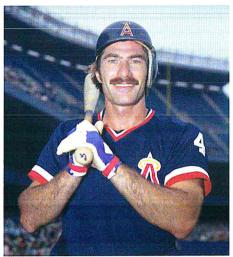
Both Grich (left) and Erstad had football backgrounds, which helps explain the tough, hard-nosed style they brought to the baseball diamond every time they suited up.

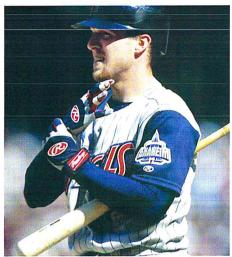
while playing solid defense at first base. Joyner was primed for success heading into his first Big League campaign after dominating the Puerto Rican winter league, winning the triple crown that winter and raking at a .400 clip during Spring Training while whiffing just four times in 94 at-bats. Angels skipper Gene Mauch took the bold step of penciling Joyner into the Opening Day lineup as the No. 3 hitter - ahead of Jackson and sat back to watch the fireworks.

"The only other rookie I've had with comparable ability was Richie Allen," Mauch gushed to Sports Illustrated at a later point during the '86 season.



THE FIRST OVERALL pick in the 1995 draft out of the University of Nebraska — where he hit .410 in his junior year while also holding down punting duties on the Cornhuskers' national champion football squad — Darin Erstad was one of the finest

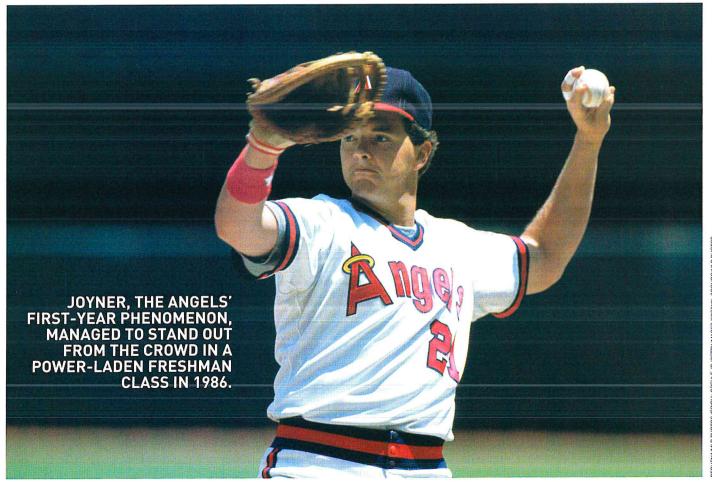




athletes of his generation. But even more impressive than his array of skills was his effort.

"What I learned from him was the intensity and the work ethic he brought every single day," says Troy Glaus, who made his Angels debut two years after Erstad. "It was impressive to watch and obviously, through the years there, it paid off."

A player whose all-out style in the outfield and on the basepaths often led to injury, Erstad's finest campaign came in 2000, when he played in a career-high 157 games (which he duplicated



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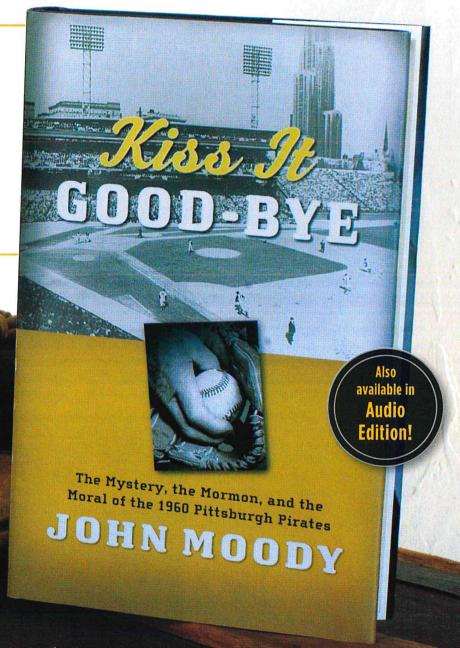
- Bill Mazeroski

"[Author John Moody] knocks it out of the yard."

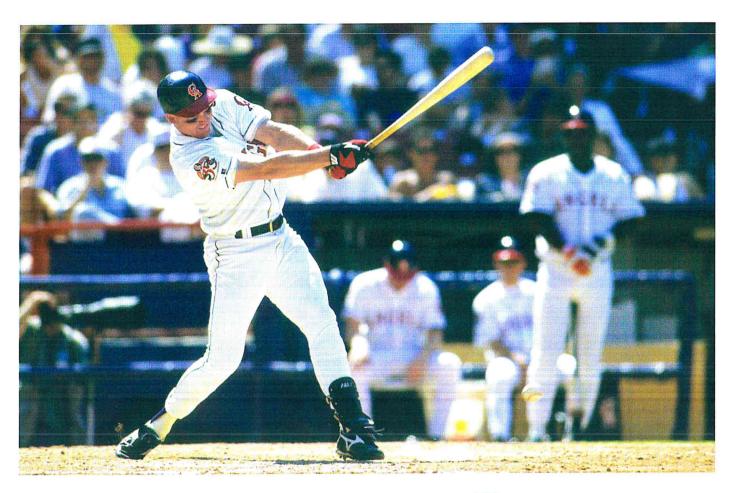
— Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Kiss It Good-bye recalls the remarkable 1960 season when the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the heavily favored New York Yankees, capped by Bill Mazeroski's immortal Game 7 walk-off home run. Written by John Moody, a native of Pittsburgh, the book is filled with neverbefore-revealed secrets about Pirates legends Bill Mazeroski, Roberto Clemente, Danny Murtaugh, and ace pitcher Vernon Law, who led the 1960 Pirates to the greatest upset in World Series history.

Own the book that the Wall Street Journal said is "A valentine not only to that dramatic game but also to a memorable summer of baseball and a sweet season in life," and Fox News called "An amazing story."



Available at bookstores everywhere or at BarnesandNoble.com, DeseretBook.com, or Amazon.com



the following year) and led the AL in plate appearances while keeping his batting average at an otherworldly .355.

BOBBY GRICH, 1981

A TOUGH-AS-NAILS SECOND baseman who turned double plays with the pugnacious demeanor expected of a boxer's son, Bobby Grich spent 10 years patrolling the infield in Anaheim, less than 20 miles from his native Long Beach. The standout high

school quarterback, who had been offered a spot on the UCLA football team, used slick fielding up the middle to earn four Gold Gloves while playing the first seven seasons of his career in Baltimore. Although a back injury, caused when he tried to lift an air conditioner unit by himself, derailed Grich's first few seasons in California, he worked hard to recover and played better than ever in the strikeshortened 1981 campaign. That season he led the AL in home runs (22) and slugging percentage (.543), all while continuing to provide top-flight defense.

Salmon (top) was the Angels' biggest threat at the dish in the '90s and early aughts before he passed the baton to Guerrero, who came aboard in '04.

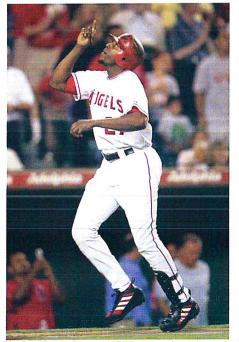
TIM SALMON, 1995

AWARDED THE TOP spot in a list of the "100 Greatest Angels" compiled by popular fan blog *Halos Heaven*, Tim Salmon is arguably the most beloved personality in franchise history this side of the club's cowboy hat—wearing patriarch Gene Autry. Named the Rookie of the Year in 1993, Salmon put up his best statistical season in 1995, finishing with a .330 average, 34 home runs, 111 runs and 105 RBI.

"He was a slow starter, but at the end of the year his numbers were right there," says longtime teammate Troy Glaus. "He was very important in the community. He was the face of the franchise for 14 years. I don't think he gets the respect around the game for as good a player and as good a hitter as he was."

One figure who did afford Salmon's skills the respect they deserved was baseball statistician Bill James, who described the "Kingfish" as an "old fashioned hardhat kind of player — good arm, not too much speed, works hard and rarely goes into a slump."

Although Salmon may not be as well known around the Majors as his fans and teammates would like, there's no doubting his place of highest esteem in Angels lore.

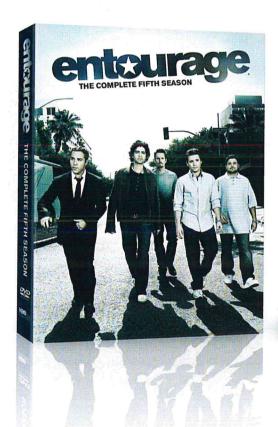


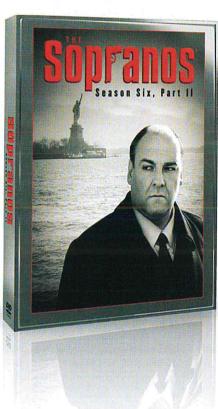
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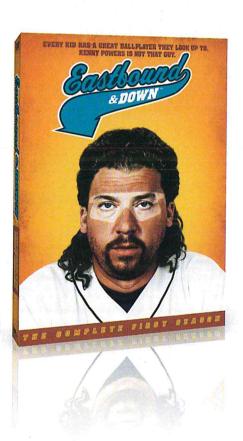
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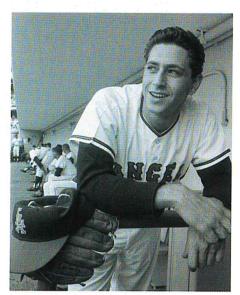
Not surprisingly, he was at the center of the action when the Halos captured the franchise's first World Series title in 2002, hitting crucial home runs in the Division Series and the Fall Classic.

VLADIMIR GUERRERO, 2004

IN THE BOOK of Genesis, an angel with a flaming sword is dispatched to block the entrance to Paradise after the ejection of Adam and Eve. Pitchers in the American League West would be forgiven for mistaking Vladimir Guerrero's pine-tar slathered bat for that luminous sword.

"I rarely see him not locked in. He's got a different zone than everybody else in the game of baseball," marveled Angels hitting coach Mickey Hatcher, who found himself with little to do other than point toward the batter's box when it came to Guerrero — there wasn't much he was going to teach the guy. "It's really tough

for a pitcher. I've seen guys make their best pitches off him and he still hits a home run. He's just a different person. He steps in that box and it's all about hitting. And that's it."



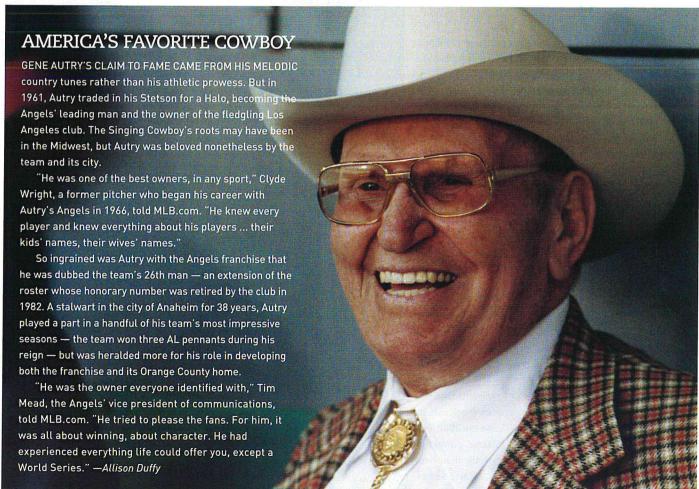
Belinsky's no-hitter in his fourth start was his only highlight, but he always found time for fun.

Coming from the Major League hinterlands of Montreal via free agency prior to the 2004 season, Guerrero may have been the best-kept secret in the game. A preternaturally gifted batsman who never saw a pitch he couldn't hit, Guerrero also possessed arguably the best right-field arm since Roberto Clemente. In 2004, he took the American League by storm en route to winning the MVP Award, leading the league in runs (124), total bases (366) and outfield assists (13), while also pacing the Angels in hits (206), doubles (39), homers (39) and RBI (126).

"He was our horse. He was a guy who had that presence in the clubhouse and in the lineup," says former teammate Francisco Rodriguez, now with the Mets. "He carried that team every year. He was a guy who said 'Get on my back, and I'll take you guys where you need to be.""

BO BELINSKY, 1962

In his fourth Major League start, a left-handed rookie strode to the mound for the Angels and set down the visiting Baltimore



ANGELOLOGY

Orioles without surrendering a hit. Bo Belinksy's nine-strikeout gem on May 5, 1962, was the first no-hitter thrown on the West Coast and it made him an overnight star.

With his newly achieved celebrity status, the good-looking Belinsky enjoyed a series of relationships with high-profile starlets, including Ann-Margaret, Tina Louise and Mamie Van Doren. For all his amorous exploits, Belinsky finished the '62 campaign with a mediocre 10-11 record and never recorded double-digit victories in any of his seven remaining seasons in the Major Leagues.

"Our life was a circus," Van Doren told The Associated Press upon Belinsky's death in 2001. "We were engaged on April Fools' Day and broke the engagement on Halloween. It just broke my heart, and his, too. It was a wild ride, but a lot of fun."

DEAN CHANCE, 1964

Bob Gibson's 1968 campaign comes up in nearly every conversation about all-time great pitching performances. So do Nolan Ryan's 1973 season and Tom Seaver's run in '69. One effort that doesn't get nearly deserved attention is the 1964 season put together by Dean Chance. The 23-year-old righthander, who had been snapped up by the Angels during the 1960 expansion draft after being signed right out of high school by the Orioles in 1959, paced the AL in wins (20), innings pitched (278.1), complete games (15), shutouts (11) and ERA (1.65), while tallying the third-most strikeouts (207). When the Cy Young Award votes were counted, there was no chance that the Angels' stud wasn't going to be the winner; he was atop 85 percent of the ballots during a time when only one award was handed out in the AL and NL combined.

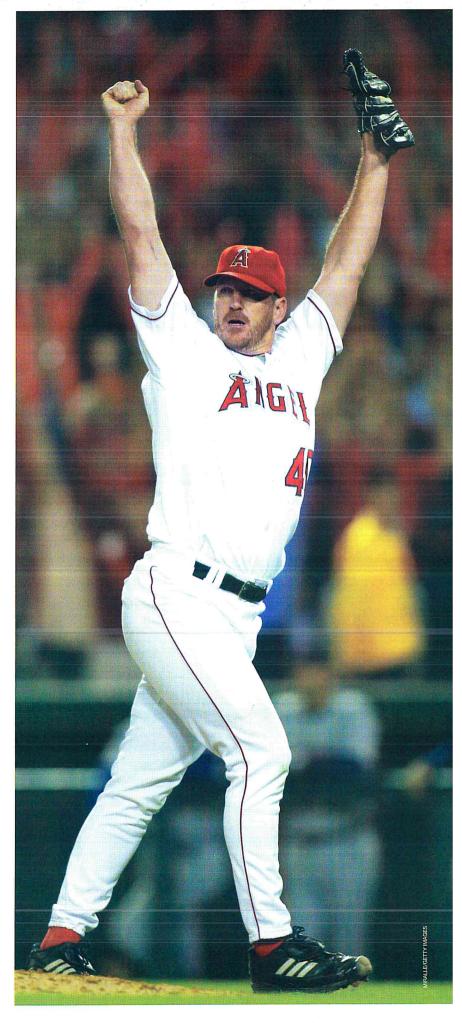
TROY PERCIVAL, 2002

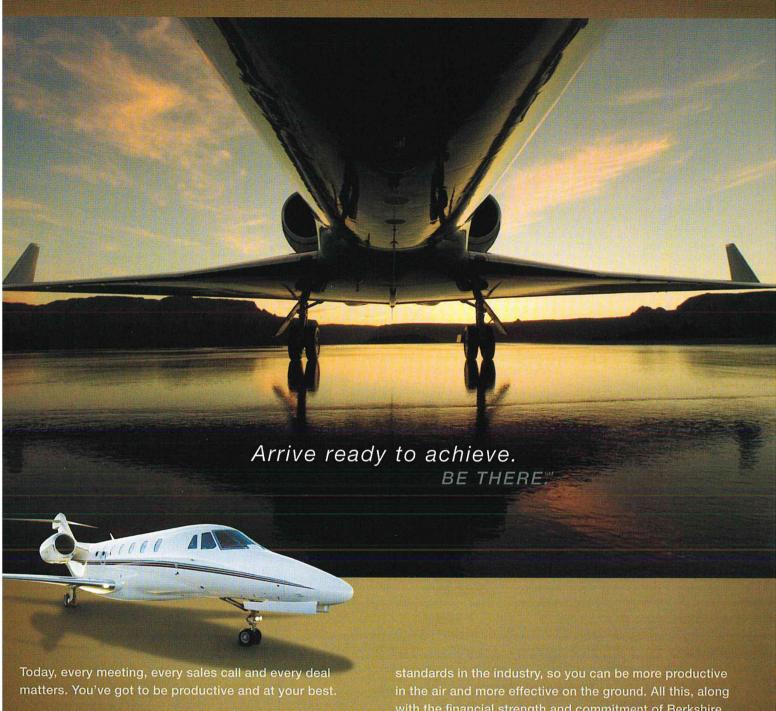
"THERE ARE NO sure things, but he was as close as you could have gotten," Troy Glaus said about long-time Angels closer Troy Percival. "He had an ability in the clubhouse to be somewhat of a disciplinarian and a jokester at the same time, and not everybody can pull that off."

Percival's eight seasons with 30 or more saves gave him the clubhouse clout to take a leadership role, and the California native never hid from the responsibility. Fittingly, Percival closed out his dominant 40-save 2002 campaign by recording the last out of Game 7 of the World Series.

"Troy was an unbelievable person. He's a guy who will extend his hand when you need help and at the same time he would be on top of you if you were out of line," says Francisco Rodriguez, who

Percival closed the door on the Giants to end the 2002 Fall Classic, giving the Halos their first World Series championship.





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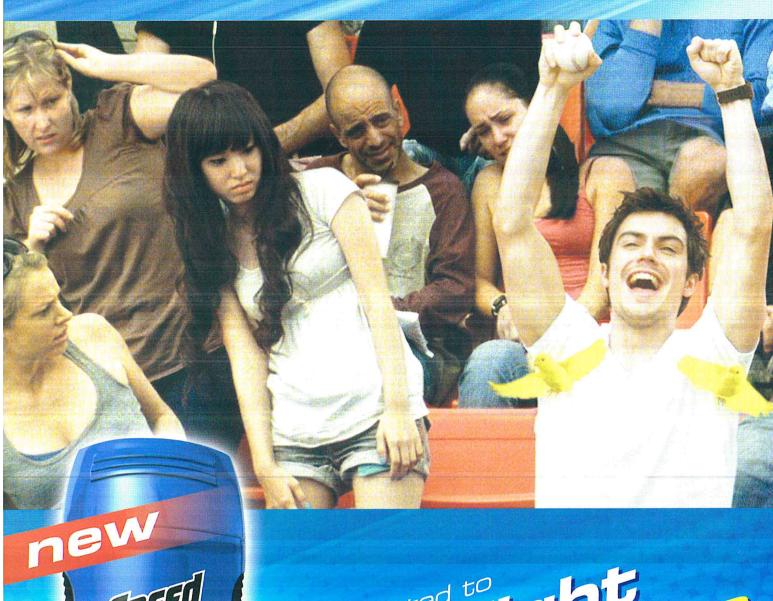
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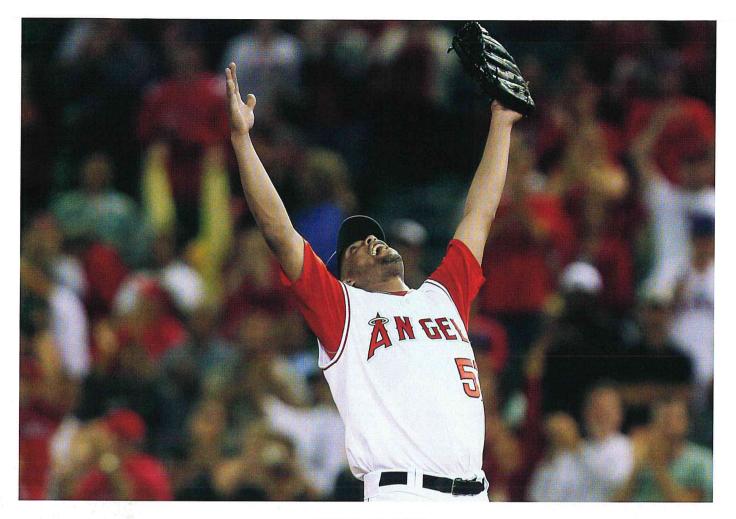
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ANGELOLOGY

took over closing duties after Percival's departure following the 2004 season. "He was my mentor out there. The little that I know about this game, I know because of him. He was a tremendous character and I owe him so much."

MARK LANGSTON, 1991

MARK LANGSTON WAS a well-rounded athlete who just happened to pitch. Able to field his position as well as anyone and gifted with a famously quick pick-off move to first base, Langston won seven Gold Glove Awards during his 16-year career in the

Majors. One of those Gold Gloves came in 1991, when the All-Star won 19 games for the Angels. The three-time strikeout king punched out 183 batters, pedestrian by his standards but still enough to win better than 70 percent of his starts.

FRANCISCO RODRIGUEZ, 2008

Before the 2008 season, Angels reliever Darren Oliver made Francisco Rodriguez a proposition: "If you save 55 or more, you've got to give us Rolexes."

Having never even reached 55 save opportunities in a single season, Rodriguez,

Rodriguez (top) and Langston accumulated awesome numbers with the Angels. K-Rod set the saves record in 2008, and Langston won 19 games in his 1991 All-Star campaign.

known as K-Rod for his propensity to strike out opponents, quickly agreed — and then forgot about the deal. Oliver didn't.

"Early in the year I didn't even think about it," Rodriguez recalls. "But by the middle of the season when we were rolling, Oliver is like, 'I already got the catalog. It's coming up.' And when I broke the record, he had already ordered the watches and I just had to write the check."

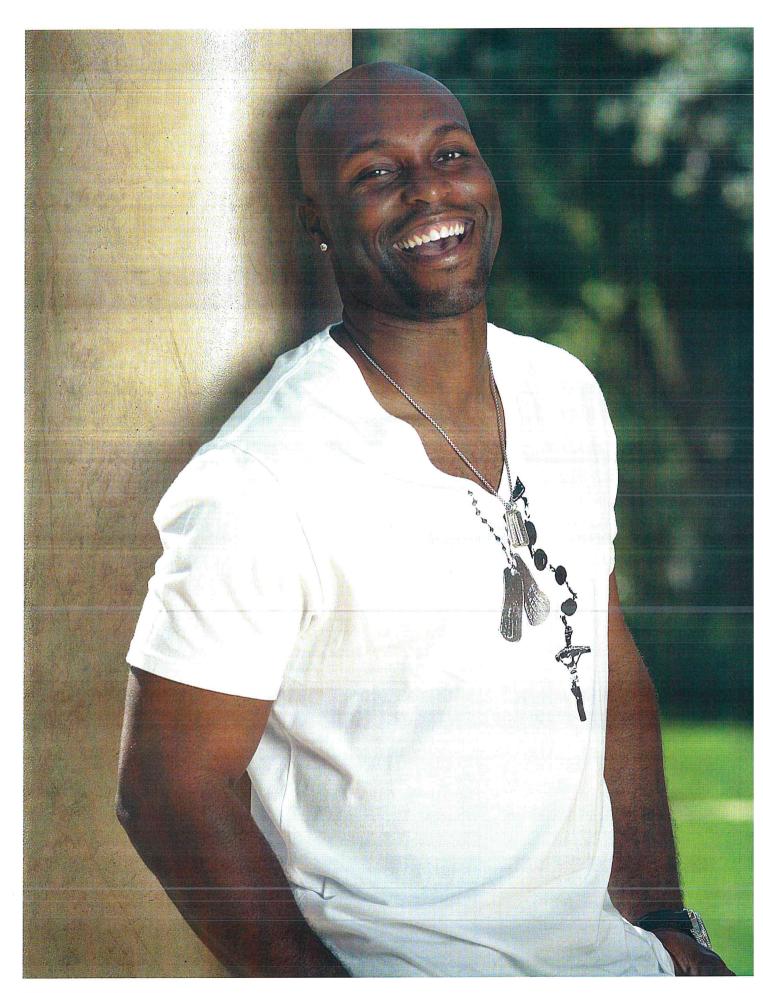
Looking back, Rodriguez has absolutely no qualms about shelling out for personalized Rolex watches for the Angels' catchers, bullpen staff and relievers as a show of appreciation for

> all the support they gave him as he marched toward a record-setting 62-save campaign. By adding a change-up to his fastball and devastating array of breaking pitches, Rodriguez was all but unhittable in '08, striking out 77 in 68.1 innings.

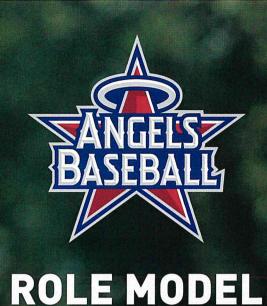
> "The only word that can describe that season? That was a magical season. If I say something more or something less, I would be lying," Rodriguez reminisces about his record-setting year in Anaheim. "It was a magical season: The fans, my teammates, everything was just terrific. I really loved it there. The way they treated my family, the way they treated me. Nothing more I could say about it." ◆



Chris Greenberg is a project assistant editor for Major League Baseball Properties.



ALL-STAR GAME 2010



TORII HUNTER IS ADORED THROUGHOUT ORANGE COUNTY, AND HE AIMS TO SHARE HIS GOOD FORTUNE. BY JON SCHWARTZ

OR PLENTY OF REASONS — SOME ADMITTEDLY SUPERFICIAL — TORII Hunter has a life that anybody would envy. The guy's a superstar in the Los Angeles area, where opportunities abound beyond anything he could have dreamed of as a kid in Arkansas. He wakes up every morning and looks out over the Pacific Ocean, enjoying one of those vistas that seems to be a fake backdrop from a movie set in nearby Hollywood.

But it hasn't always been so easy. Hunter talks freely about growing up in Pine Bluff, a hard place where life seemed, at times, to offer just two choices: Find a way out or end up in jail. Rather than turn him into a brooding introvert, though, Hunter's upbringing has instilled in him a drive to help anyone he can. He is consistently named among the most charitable Big Leaguers; he's outspoken on issues of race, and his always-present smile lifts the spirits of everyone he encounters, no matter their situation.

Torii Hunter is truly a special breed. And here, he talks to Major League Baseball about adapting to life in California, his role in the community, and his most jaw-droppingly unbelievable catches.

So you're living in the OC, and you've got a great team behind you here. How good is your life right now?

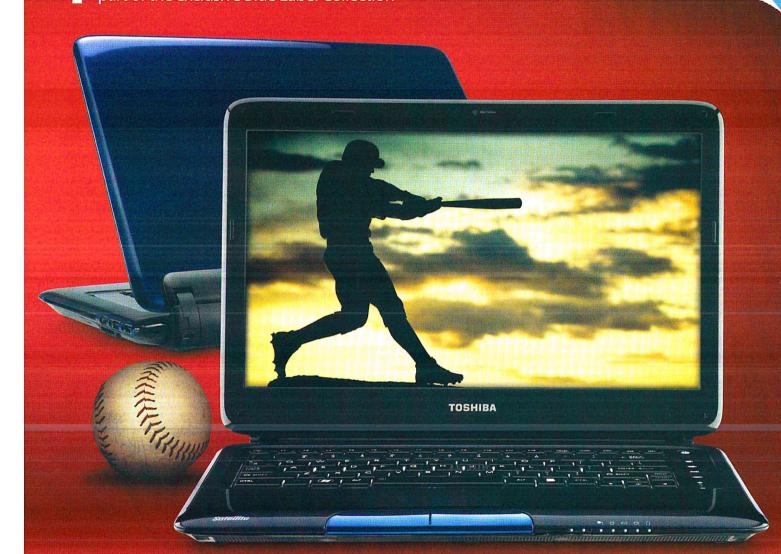
You know what, I love it out here. Great fans. It seems like everywhere I go, they treat me so well. Every morning I eat breakfast at Coco's out in Newport Coast. I eat my breakfast, go back home, and kick back and watch the water from the Pacific Coast Highway.

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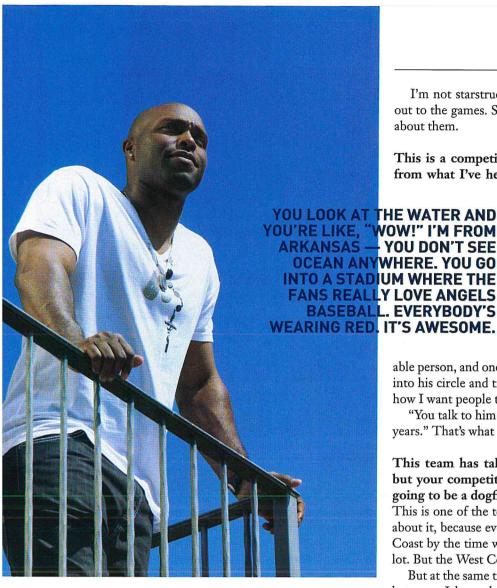


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You look at the water and you're like, "Wow!" I'm from Arkansas — you don't see ocean anywhere. You go into a stadium where the fans really love Angels baseball. Everybody's wearing red. It's awesome. The experience I've had here the last couple of years has been awesome.

Do you ever get starstruck? It's pretty different than Minnesota out here.

It's way different than Minnesota. There, you might see Prince every once in a while. But out in Orange County, man, you see everybody. In Minnesota, they don't really see superstars that often, so you get a lot of people at your dinner table that sit down and talk to you the whole time that you're eating. Or they see you at a stoplight and they're screaming and whatever. In Orange County, they see so many superstars that they just say, "Hi, how you doing? How's everything?" And they keep going.

I kind of like that — they give you your respect and everything, but they still acknowledge you and let you know that they know who you are. And I love that about the OC.

Who are some of the famous faces you see in the stands at Angel Stadium?

We see a lot of faces. Every day, somebody will say, "So-and-so is over there, so-and-so is over there." And we're on deck looking around before we hit. Just looking around.

TORII HUNTER

I'm not starstruck, but it's kind of awesome that they come out to the games. Same with Dodger Stadium, but let's not talk about them.

This is a competitive lifestyle, with a lot on the line. But from what I've heard, you're friends with everybody. How

do you keep that up?

Me? They like me? I treat people like I want to be treated. I never blow anybody off. I'm always talking to the vendors. I always try to talk to them — and have great conversations with them and talk about not just baseball, but about life.

What's the best thing that someone could say about you?

More than anything, "Torii is a respectable person, and once he sees you and talks to you, he brings you into his circle and treats you like you should be treated." That's how I want people to really talk about me.

"You talk to him one time, it's like you've been friends for 10 years." That's what I would love for everybody to keep saying.

This team has taken five of the last six division crowns, but your competition definitely improved this year. Is this going to be a dogfight all season?

This is one of the toughest divisions. People don't want to talk about it, because everybody's asleep in the Central and the East Coast by the time we start playing, so they really don't see us a lot. But the West Coast is the best coast.

But at the same time, let's not forget that we won the division last year. I know last year was last year, but we still hold the crown until somebody takes it away from it us. We're still the champs. We go out, we play the game; we have a different style of baseball. We put ourselves in a position to win. As long as we pitch and catch the ball, I promise you, we've got a great chance to win it. That's what I've learned in my 18 years of pro baseball.

Who were your baseball heroes when you were growing up? When I was a kid, Andre Dawson. I was from Arkansas, so we didn't have a professional team. But WGN was showing Cubs games everywhere. So that was the only ballclub that we really watched, those guys and the Braves.

Dawson hit 49 home runs that one year with the Cubs, and he had the curl, he had the stiff front leg. Every game, I watched, and if I had a game that night, I'd go out and hit just like him. Stiff front leg, and I had the curl. Everything like that. He's one of my favorite players ever.

Who do you think 10-years-olds feel that way about today? Man, that's tough. Me? Nah. But as a 10-year-old, I always liked speed, a little bit of everything. A guy who could do all of it. I think that the game is starting to come back to that. You've got guys like Hanley Ramirez who are five-tool players. Not too many of them out there. Adam Jones is an athlete — he runs and steals and hits for power. He robs home runs, and kids love that. Kids love when you climb a wall and rob a home run. It makes



TORII HUNTER

them go crazy. So as a 10-year-old I would have to pick an out-fielder that's robbing home runs.

If only you knew something about robbing home runs, maybe you could talk about that ...

Yeah, I can't say me, because it would be kind of cocky if I said Torii Hunter. So I have to give it to someone else.

Do people still mention the '02 All-Star Game catch to you? It's every day! Every day you sign autographs for the fans in the stands, and someone will have that picture from the All-Star Game in Milwaukee, taking it away from Barry Bonds, and want to get it signed. It's amazing. It seems like every day, somehow, somebody's going to slip that in. I can't believe that was eight years ago, and people still talk about that.

Willie Mays has said that his famous 1954 World Series catch wasn't the best he ever made, just the most famous. Is that true for you, too?

Yeah, I've made better catches than that. But it's just because it was Barry Bonds — at the time, one of the best hitters in all of baseball. It was the All-Star Game, a big stage, and everybody was watching.

But it wasn't my greatest catch. Carlos Lee once hit a home run in the Metrodome — well, he hit a ball hard and I went back to center field, and I jumped so high to get the ball. I stretched out and I caught it, and just to see his face ... He went down on his knees and he was like, "I can't believe he did this," in the middle of the game. But the next day, from my shoulder all the way down to my hip, I had a muscle that was so sore from reaching and stretching. When you wake up sore or in pain, that means you made a pretty good catch.

You took home the Branch Rickey Award in 2009 for your charity work. How does that honor compare to some of your on-the-field accomplishments?

I've been hearing about the Branch Rickey Award since I was a kid. Branch Rickey was a special man.

For me, I always told myself that if I ever had the chance to give a kid the same opportunity that I had to have success, I was going to do it. And now that I'm there, I want to give it back. I think all people should do that, no matter whether it's sports, or if it's your job. Just in life. Wherever you are, I think you should try to give back and help that next person, that next kid.

What's the most fulfilling cause that you work with?

A lot of people talk about what they do. I'm not that type of guy to sit there and brag. But I also was told that sometimes if you don't tell, people will never know that they should do something, too. So one thing that really sticks out for me is just giving kids scholarships. I give 100 four-year scholarships away every four years. You kind of monitor the kids, you talk to them, you see how they're doing. That's special to me because some of these kids would never have the opportunity to go to college without assistance. For me to be able to assist these kids and for them to go on to higher learning and become a doctor or a lawyer or whatever it may be — and I had something to do with it — it's a great feeling. It's something that sticks with me all the time. When you see those kids graduate, and they send you those pictures and say thank you, it almost brings a tear to your eye.

I've read that you've said that if you didn't have baseball, you'd probably be in jail ...

Baseball has done a lot for me. In the summertime, when school's out, you're playing baseball. If I didn't play baseball, I could have





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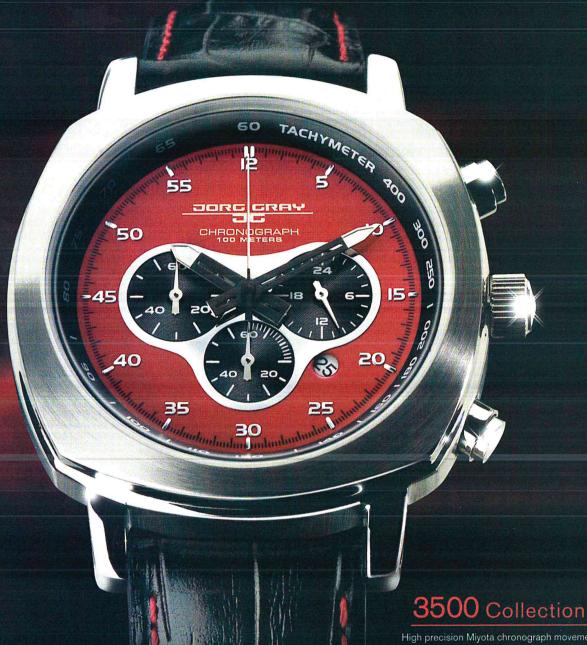
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TORII HUNTER

been in all kinds of trouble. There was not much to do where I was growing up, other than fight, sell drugs and defend yourself. That's the way it was, always.

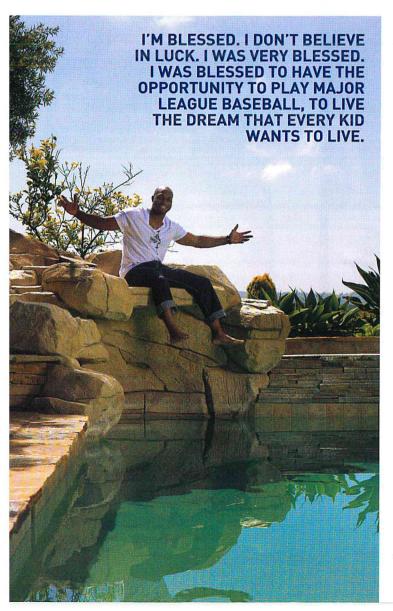
Baseball is something that I took on in summers as a kid, and all my friends did it. We played, and it kept us on the field. Every day — we practiced every single day. The whole summer, we were in tournaments and doing it. Baseball really helped me out a lot, and kept me off those streets.

And right now, my career has helped my whole family out. My mom, my brothers, everybody. I was able to help a lot of people in my family.

How lucky do you feel that you had that kind of out?

It's not luck — I'm blessed. I don't believe in luck. I was very blessed. I was blessed to have the opportunity to play Major League Baseball, to live the dream that every kid wants to live — to play professional sports.

I don't care what you say, some people want to be a doctor, some people want to be a lawyer or whatever, but every kid wants to be an athlete, man. For me to live out my dream and live other peoples' dreams, I'm blessed and I'm thankful. And I don't take this for granted.



The Angels are such a community-conscious team, and they're going to be using the All-Star Game platform to do things like build fields and other charitable initiatives. How much does it mean to you to be a part of that?

Everything that they do — as far as community work, the front office, the staff — is awesome. Mike Scioscia is awesome, the way he teaches the game. Everything fits perfectly here. So when I was sitting up and thinking about all these teams when I was a free agent — it was 10 teams, 11 teams — the Angels always popped up in my head. This is the organization I really wanted to be a part of.

And when I got in this organization, I really saw why I was thinking about this ballclub all the time. The front office is just awesome — they always have different kids at the stadium. They believe in the community. Arte Moreno is one of those guys who always gives back in the community. The Angels, I have to commend those guys and tell them "thank you" for everything they've helped me with. They've been on my side since I got here.

Everybody asks me, "Are you happy out there in Orange County?" And I'm like, "Man, you will never understand." The last two years have been the best years of my career.

Last season you were awarded your ninth Gold Glove Award (as was Ichiro), which puts you one back of Ken Griffey Jr., Andruw Jones and Al Kaline, and three back of Willie Mays and Roberto Clemente. Where does catching these former and current outfielders rank among the goals you have set for the rest of your career?

That's very important. That's what I want to do. If I can just get one more Gold Glove — and that's not a given — it will show that I really can play. I can play center field. People are saying, "Hey, Torii's getting older" and things like that. No, I'm actually getting smarter. I still can play it.

You do have some great up-and-coming guys like Franklin Gutierrez, Adam Jones, all these guys can really play center field. I really look up to those guys. I think they can play. But at the same time, I know I'm better than most. You can sit there and say I'm 34 or whatever, but I feel I should still be in that category with those guys defensively.

Those guys have some great offensive numbers, and I might not sniff those numbers at the plate. But I think I can play with them defensively.

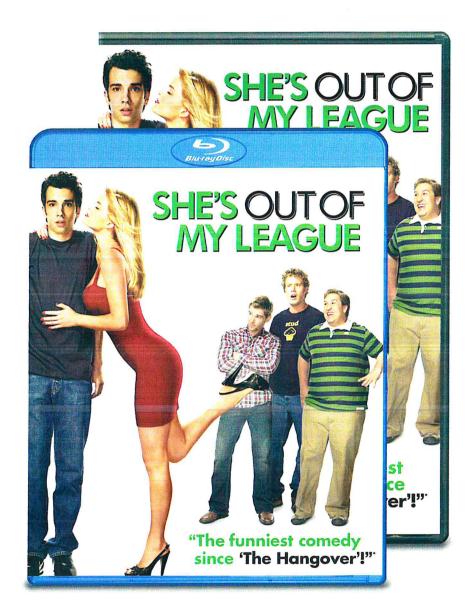
Anytime you get your name mentioned in the same sentence as Willie Mays, I mean, I can't even begin to imagine what that might be like.

It's amazing! For me to get even one Gold Glove, I was happy. Once you're a Gold Glover, you're always a Gold Glover. But at the same time, you get nine in a row ... this is definitely a blessing and a dream come true for me.

I'm living the dream right now. If it doesn't happen this year, you know I'll be disappointed, but I'll really have to look at it and say, "Man, I did a lot of things in this game defensively, and I'm really excited about it."

Jon Schwartz is associate editor for Major League Baseball Properties.

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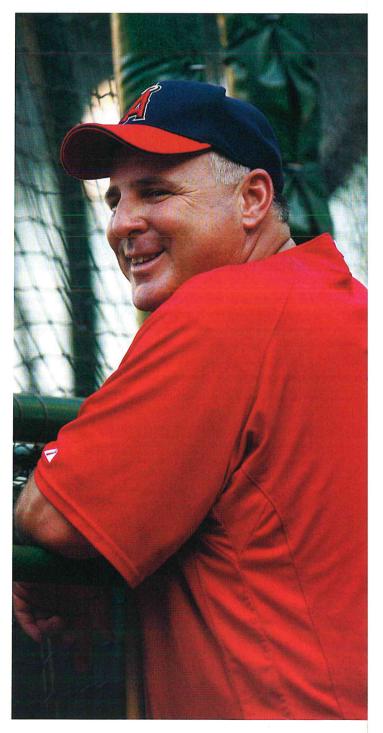
MANAGER MIKE SCIOSCIA IS THE SMILING FACE OF THE ANGELS — WHETHER HE LIKES IT OR NOT. BY TIM KURKJIAN

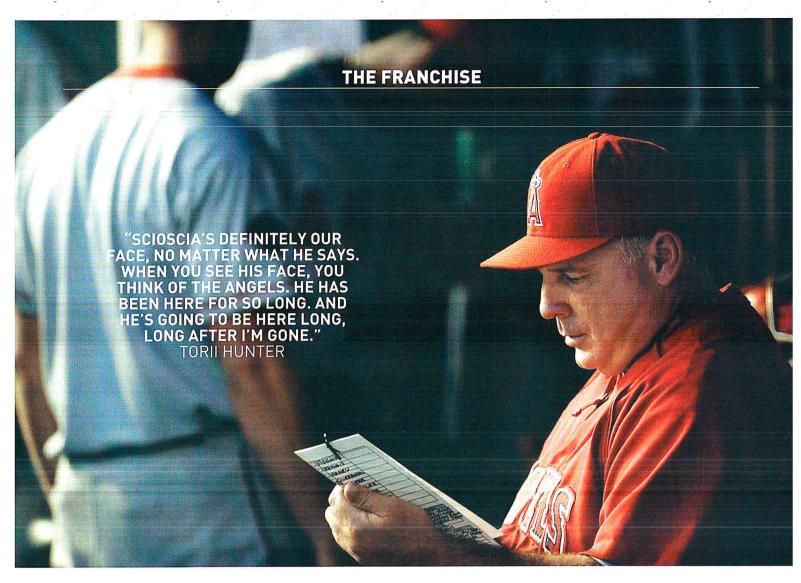
IKE SCIOSCIA IS VERY UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THE subject matter: The face of the franchise? Him? His face? "That's scary," he says with a laugh. Then his look changes, he shakes his head and says, "No, no, no. I don't like this. The players are the faces of the franchise. The face is ... it's Torii Hunter playing hard every night, even when he's hurt."

For the most part, Scioscia is right — at least about other clubs. In St. Louis, the poster child is not future Hall of Fame Manager Tony La Russa; it's Albert Pujols. In Atlanta, it's not future Hall of Famer Bobby Cox; it's Chipper Jones. But the 2010 Angels don't have that one player who qualifies as the face, nor have they really had one in 51 years of existence. Who is their best player ever? Garret Anderson? Tim Salmon? Wally Joyner? Sure, Nolan Ryan and Rod Carew wore Halos on their heads for a while, but not on their Hall of Fame plaques. And Vladimir Guerrero spent more time in Montreal than Anaheim. No, the enduring face of the Angels has to be Mike Scioscia.

"He's definitely our face, no matter what he says," Hunter explains. "It's like when Joe Torre was managing the Yankees. When you saw Joe Torre, the first thing you thought of was the Yankees. It's the same with Mike here. When you see his face, you think of the Angels. He has been here for so long. And he's going to be here long, long after I'm gone."

Scioscia arrived in Anaheim at the turn of the millenium after the Angels had gone just 70-92 in 1999. They went 82-80 with him at the helm in 2000 and have finished under .500 just twice in his 10 completed years (75 and 77 wins, in 2001 and '03, respectively). His winning percentage through 2009 was .556, the highest by any Angels manager, and he has the most victories in





club history with 900 through the '09 season. In five of the last six years, the Angels have won an AL West title, and they finished second the other season. In 2002, the Angels won the World Series, the first in club history, with

Scioscia played a large part in the Angels' transformation and has brought stability to the team on the diamond.

Scioscia leading the way. The former Big League backstop was named AL Manager of the Year in 2002 and 2009. No skipper in recent years had to overcome what Scioscia did in '09, when his team opened the season with two vital starting pitchers on the disabled list. Then a third hurler, prospect Nick Adenhart, was killed in a car crash hours after his season debut. Scioscia helped hold that team together when it easily could have fallen apart. Instead, it rolled to the AL West title with 97 wins.

He is the leader of this team in every way.

"IT'S HIS CONSISTENT APPROACH TO THE DAY," SAYS RAYS Manager Joe Maddon, who was on Scioscia's staff in Anaheim from 2000–05. "Whether they win or lose, the players see the same guy the next day. The players support that. And, he is fearless. He is never afraid to answer questions, even when something goes wrong. It makes a difference to the players. They look at him as a guy who will put things on his shoulders."

Scioscia acknowledges none of those attributes but admits that longevity and stability in the manager's office can be a big part of a successful franchise. He has been the Angels' manager for 11 years and is signed through 2018. The players know he

BASEBALL 101

MIKE SCIOSCIA IS A RISK TAKER. IT'S A TRAIT HE PUT TO USE WHEN reinventing the Angels' organization after taking the reigns in 2000.

An American League manager with a National League mindset, Scioscia's approach is a renewed focus on fundamentals and a return to small ball, somewhat of an anomaly in the slugger-dominated league that the Junior Circuit has become.

"I've always liked the way they play here," Angels outfielder Bobby Abreu told MLB.com. "They want you to run, and that's the way I've always played the game. If I see an opening, I'm going to take it."

Abreu embodies the kind of player Scioscia looks to cultivate in his organization, one who isn't afraid to put pressure on the opposition.

"When we signed Bobby, the real tangible thing we were looking for was the on-base percentage he was going to bring," Scioscia says.

"The ability to drive in runs and score runs. Those numbers were going to be important to us, because we were a team that needed that balance. We needed to set the table better."

And set the table they did. The Angels ranked third in the Majors with a .350 OBP in 2009, and they weren't afraid to press their luck on the bases either. The club finished first or second in steals in each of the five seasons prior and tallied 148 in 2009, good enough for third in the Bigs. Abreu and former Angel Chone Figgins led the team that year, with 30 and 42 swipes, respectively.

As for convention, Scioscia throws it out the window. "There's a saying: Don't make your last out at third. We're tearing that up. We'll get ugly outs, but it's all part of pushing the envelope." —Allison Duffy

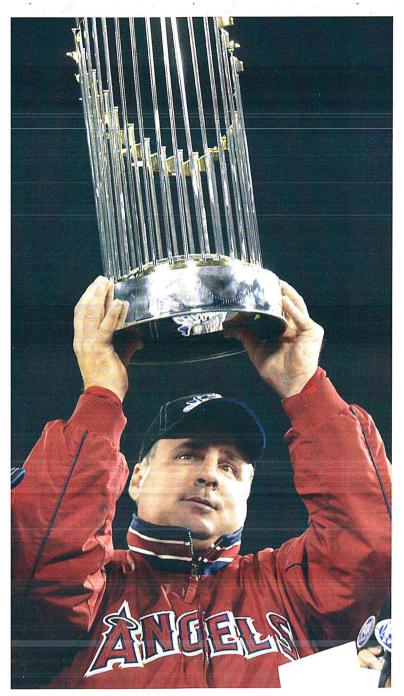


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THE FRANCHISE



Scioscia (14) learned from longtime manager Lasorda (2) and led the Angels to their first world championship. likes to golf, so Scioscia had him explain to the team how a golf club is built. Another year, Scioscia assigned pitcher Jarrod Washburn to do a report from a local ostrich festival. The next morning, Washburn arrived in the

clubhouse with one of the animals. Upon seeing the bird, then-Angels pitcher Ramon Ortiz leaped into his locker and screamed in Spanish, "Get that big chicken out of here!"

This March, Angels outfielder Bobby Abreu was downcast because the professional basketball team that he owns in his native Venezuela was mired in a slump. So Scioscia had Hunter arrange for the Harlem Globetrotters to make a surprise visit to the clubhouse. Scioscia looked at Abreu and said, "Now here's a basketball team that knows a little bit about winning games."

To all of his efforts, Scioscia says, "No matter how you are or where you're from, we're trying to build a common bond through baseball. I remember when John Lackey was a rookie. He got up and made a presentation. He did so well when he joined us for the first time that year that the guys knew what he was all about, and he ended up winning Game 7 of the World Series. I remember when David Eckstein was a rookie. He had to do a current events report. It came the week that Dale Earnhardt died. He stood up there for 15 minutes and talked to us. He showed great poise. He was not rattled even though he was up there talking to 60 people. If he's not rattled up there, he might not be rattled playing in front of 50,000."

Maddon remembers those days well with Scioscia.

"What people don't understand is how funny he is — he is hysterical," Maddon says. "We had a remote control car race on the field between Troy Percival and Shane Halter. We had Mickey Hatcher drive golf balls into the Buttes (Resort) every morning to start the morning practice. We were wide open, and he permitted it because he knew his team so well."

And they know him just as well.

"He is the face of the franchise, and that's unique," Maddon says. "I was up for the job that he got in 2000. When I didn't get the job, I told people that he'd be the manager for at least 10 years. I was right on about that."

Tim Kurkjian is a baseball analyst for ESPN.

will be there in five years. They also know that if they don't play hard for him every day, they'll be gone in five minutes.

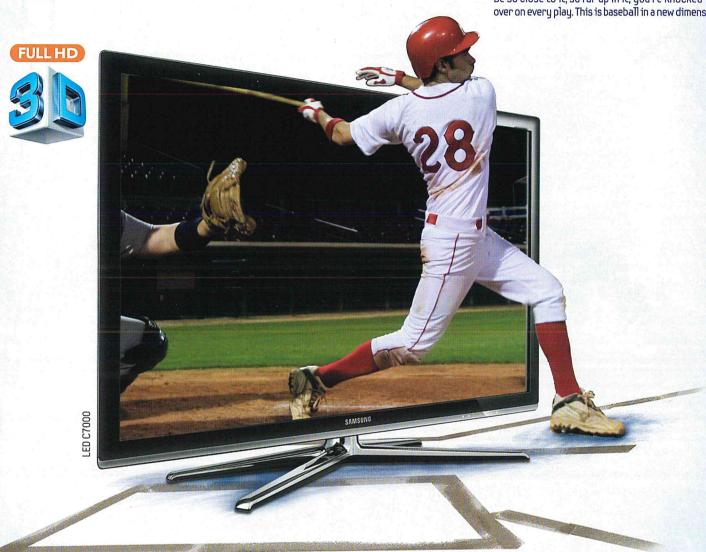
"I only played for one manager — Tommy Lasorda," says Scioscia, a two-time Dodgers All-Star and the catcher for the club's 1981 and 1988 world championship teams. "He set an environment in which everyone was relaxed, but we were expected to succeed. That's what we're trying to do here. A young player here sees the Major League staff and wants to impress — he wants to put his talent on display. That's a good thing. But it doesn't matter how long your contract is; it really doesn't mean anything: Job security is related to job performance."

Relaxed, yet intense. That's how the Angels play because that's what Scioscia insists upon. It starts in Tempe, Ariz., in Spring Training every year, every morning at 9:30. "It's the 9:30 Comedy Show," Hunter says. "Mike is the judge and the head comedian. It's all about having fun."

Every day of every spring, Scioscia assigns tasks and demonstrations for his players to present in front of teammates as part of a team building experience. Former pitcher Chris Bootcheck

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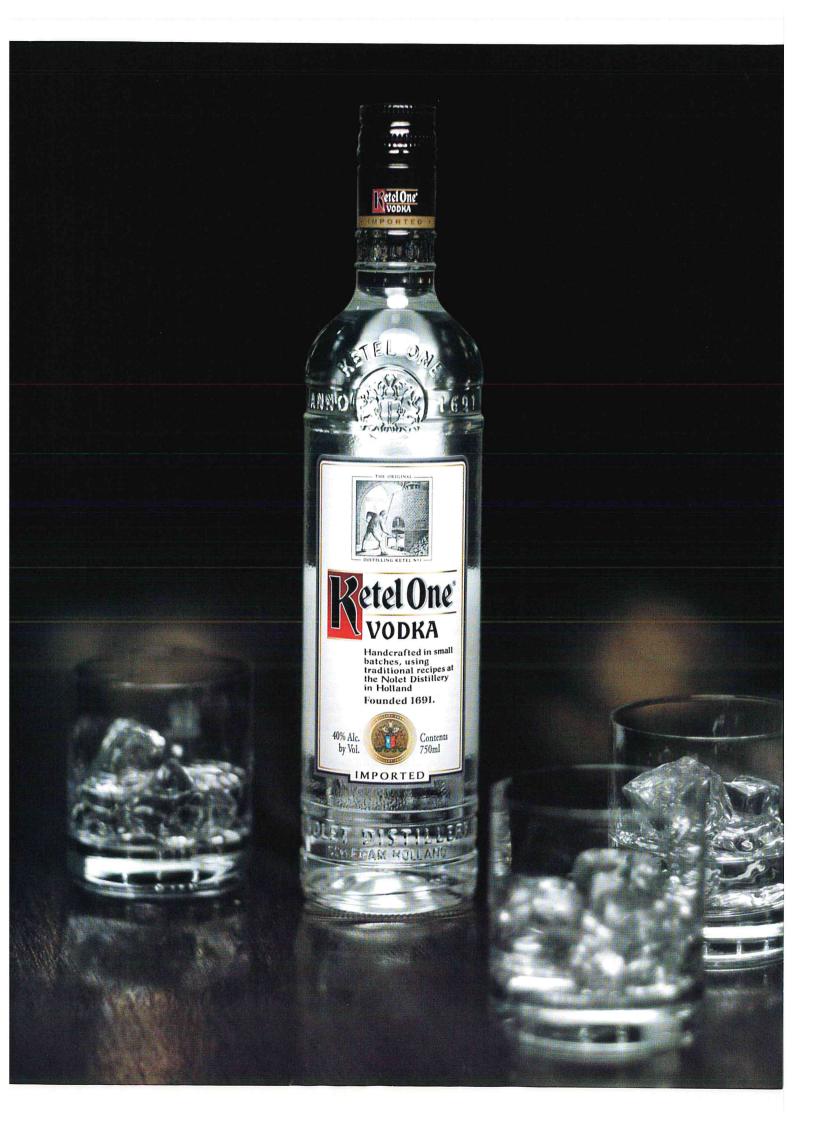


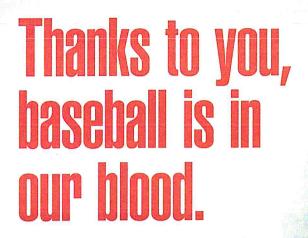




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"It's amazing, the transformation the stadium has gone through — a couple times over," says seven-time All-Star reliever Trevor Hoffman, whose father, Ed, was a long-time usher there. "To go from open air to fully enclosed and then back — pretty amazing when you think about it."

Originally built in 1966 for \$24 million, Angel Stadium is the

fourth-oldest baseball venue currently in use, behind only Boston's Fenway Park (1912), Chicago's Wrigley Field (1914) and Los Angeles's Dodger Stadium (1962). But to look at it now, very little resembles the structure built 45 years ago.

"Walking into that clubhouse is like walking into our clubhouse," says former Angel and current Brewers outfielder Jim Edmonds, whose state-ofthe-art home locker room at Miller Park opened in 2001. "It's pretty impressive what they were able to do."

NEW, CRISP, BEAUTIFUL

THE CALIFORNIA ANGELS were no strangers to that "new stadium smell" when they moved from Los Angeles to Anaheim

in 1966. They had played the 1962 through '65 seasons at the new Dodger Stadium after one year at L.A.'s Wrigley Field.

But there was a difference moving into a park built for them.

"It was an identity of our own," says Jim Fregosi, who played for the Angels from 1961–71 and later managed the club. "It was new and crisp and beautiful. And it wasn't someone else's park." Angel Stadium immediately garnered the nickname "The Big A" because of the 210-foot, 250-ton A-shaped scoreboard that was located beyond left-center field. The stadium seated a bit more than 43,000 spectators, with no seat farther than 109 feet from the field and only a handful of seats located in fair territory beyond the stadium's outfield fence.

"The players used to park their cars out beyond left field and home runs would hit the car roofs," says John Moynihan, the stadium's press box security chief and an Angels employee since 1961. "When the stadium first opened, there was a bar for the writers after dinner. It was a great social place. The guys who went up there after games — [Yogi] Berra, [Billy] Martin, [Frank] Howard, [Ted] Williams ... it was an All-Star Revue. There are so many stories in this

stadium that few people ever get to know about."

The 1967 All-Star Game at Angel Stadium was the first to be broadcast live on prime-time television. But it made history for other reasons as well. In a record 15 innings, the National League notched a 2-1 victory, with all three runs coming on homers — by the NL's Dick Allen, the AL's Brooks Robinson and the deciding blast by game MVP Tony Perez of the Senior Circuit. The game also included a then-record 30 strikeouts — 17 by the National League's pitchers.

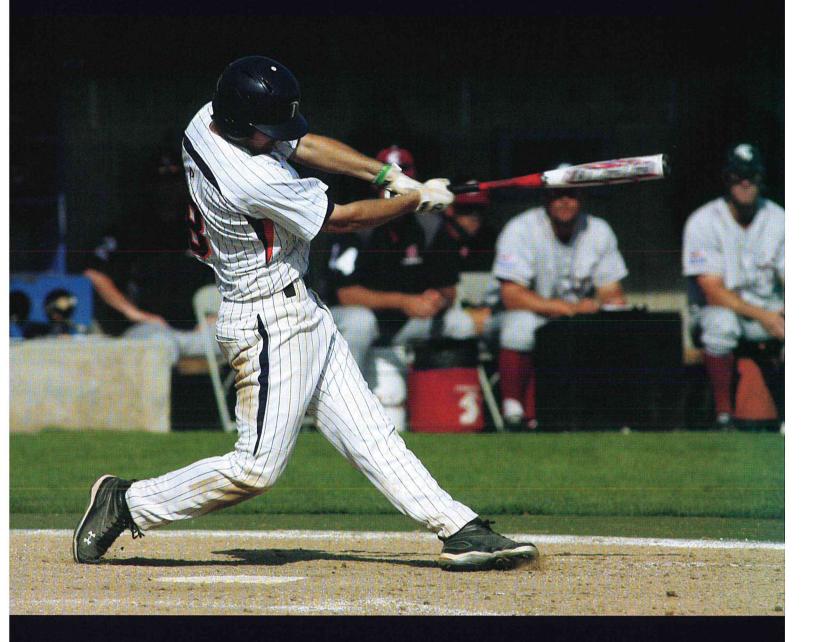
"I was walking into the game with home plate umpire Ed Runge and he said, 'I'll show them a strike zone today,'" recalls Fregosi, who was 1 for 4 in the game with a third-inning single off Juan Marichal. "It was hard to see in the twilight."



As originally constructed, just a year before the ballpark's first All-Star Game (above), the "Big A" scoreboard loomed over the field at Angel Stadium (top), situated just beyond the wall.

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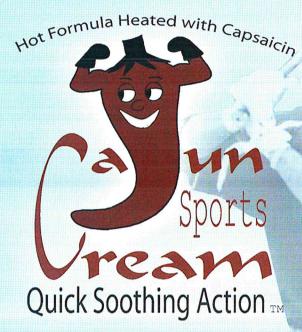


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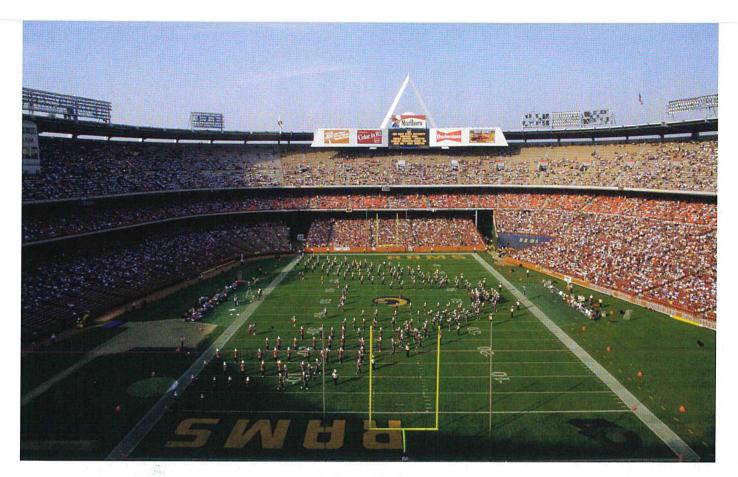
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THE BIG A

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DAVE HOLLAND, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

RAMS RUSH IN

A LITTLE MORE than a decade after the Angels moved to Anaheim, the stadium was expanded to accommodate the arrival of the National Football League's Los Angeles Rams. The deal brokered to bring

was enclosed when

the Rams to Orange County called for the facility - renamed Anaheim Stadium — to be remodeled, adding 23,000 seats and enclosing the outfield.

Gone was the backdrop of the nearby San Gabriel Mountains and the view of the hulking Big A scoreboard, which had to be moved about 1,300 feet to the east end of the parking lot and began serving as a marquee seen by drivers on the 57 freeway.

Of course, also gone was the previous intimacy of the baseballonly design. The new capacity of 64,500 left ticket holders in seats

beyond center field feeling as though they were in another area code. Rare was the sellout crowd.

Although the numbers show that the park actually became more hitter-friendly with the renovation, the size of the facility made it seem deceptively huge. "It seemed

to make the stadium play much larger, no question," says Fregosi, who managed the Angels from 1978-81. "You had to hit it a mile to hit it out."

That didn't seem to slow Bo Jackson in his first at-bat when the All-Star Game returned to Anaheim in 1989. Jackson, the game's eventual MVP, launched a Rick Reuschel pitch onto the tarpcovered seats in center in the bottom of the first. It was the lasting image from that year's Midsummer Classic, won by the AL, 5-3.

The ever-changing park's open outfield the NFL's Rams moved to town.

Despite Fregosi's claim, Jackson's blast was just one of many memorable home runs hit at the stadium in the 1980s. Reggie Jackson hit career home run No. 500 in 1984 and Boston's Dave Henderson hit a memorable Game 5 home run off of Donnie Moore to extend the deciding game of the 1986 American League Championship Series.

Some other historic events in the stadium during the decade include Rod Carew's 3,000th hit in 1985, Don Sutton's 300th win the following year, and Rams running back Eric Dickerson surpassing the 2,000-yard mark on his way to the single-season rushing record in 1984.

ALL ABOUT THE FANS

SHORTLY AFTER THE Rams skipped town in 1995, The Walt Disney Company bought the Angels and set out to give fans a true

baseball experience once again.

The idea: Tear out the football seats to open up the outfield and modernize the stadium without interrupting the Angels' 1997 and 1998 seasons. Easier said than done.

"It was the most challenging job we had taken on at the time,"

says Dave Holland, deputy director of operations for Turner Construction Company. "We did it through phasing and packaging pieces of construction. We carved out areas so as not to interrupt the baseball seasons."

The architects combined input from television and radio networks, food services and players in an effort to provide the best possible product for all involved. Engineers toured newly constructed stadiums in places like Cleveland, Denver, Baltimore

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The overhaul was extensive. Two restaurant clubs were added — one behind home plate, the other on the club level down the right-field line. A kids interactive zone was built in right field; all club-level suites were expanded and moved closer to the field. Dugout suites were added behind home plate. Both clubhouses were expanded and upgraded. And perhaps the most recognizable addition was the "California Spectacular" in left-center, a model rock formation with water cannons and pyrotechnics.

"It's a celebration to distinguish the stadium," Holland says. "We also built a secret A in the rock formation, which you can see from the right angle."

Water is pumped through the geysers and streams over the rock formation, which was modeled after the California coastline. The geysers go into overdrive when the home team hits a home run.

"The center-field background is great — you can see the ball very well as a hitter, plus you have the stones and the waterfall out there, and that makes it look beautiful," says Angels outfielder Bobby Abreu, who joined the club before the 2009 season. "I've always loved the background."

The main entrance to the stadium behind home plate features two giant Angels hats — size 649.5, to be exact — and a brick baseball infield with lit bases.

The equivalent of a five-story concrete building was erected within the seating structure behind the plate to handle the revised press and broadcast levels, as well as a tier of club-level suites. "That was a \$35 million project that we had to complete in just six months," Holland says. Work on the home-plate area began



These days, the Angels are winners and the ballpark looks perfect. after the 1996 season ended and was completed in time for Opening Day 1997. The entire stadium renovation was completed in 18 months.

"They worked on the exterior a lot through the season," says Edmonds, who grew up about 10 miles

from the stadium. "I remember they were working during batting practice. All that work, it wasn't for the players. It was for families, to make it fan-friendly. That's what it's all about."

Almost a decade later, in 2006, Sports Illustrated ranked Angel Stadium the best in baseball for fan value and experience. But the fans would let their approval be heard much sooner, filling the seats and creating a home-field advantage the Angels had missed in prior years. And when the 2002 Angels won the club's first World Series title, it would be impossible to ignore the crowd noise as it reached a fever pitch. •

Jon Clifford is a freelance writer born and raised in Southern California.

HOLDING ITS OWN

ALTHOUGH MORE THAN A DECADE HAS PASSED SINCE ANGEL STADIUM'S MOST recent facelift, the ballpark remains on par with its newer counterparts.

"They've taken care of it extremely well," former Angels All-Star and Manager Jim Fregosi says. "They have really tried to keep it modern. I think it still compares favorably to the new parks. I love the new parks in Seattle, San Francisco, Citi Field and Yankee Stadium in New York. But I think Angels Stadium compares right now."

The Knothole Club down the right-field line and the Diamond Club tucked behind home plate offer an upscale dining experience, and the Platinum Suites located between the dugouts allow a lucky few a closer view of the action than ever before.

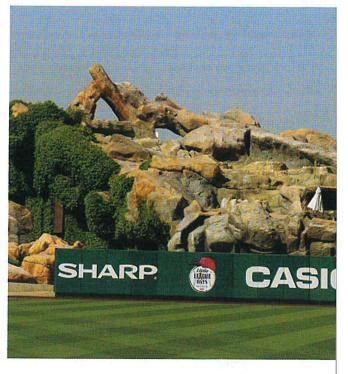
It hardly has the look of a stadium that has been around for more than 40 years.

"I think it has stood up really well compared to the newer parks," Angels outfielder Bobby Abreu says. "Yes, it's older compared to the ones recently built, but the great thing about this stadium is they've done a lot of reconstruction inside, which makes it look new."

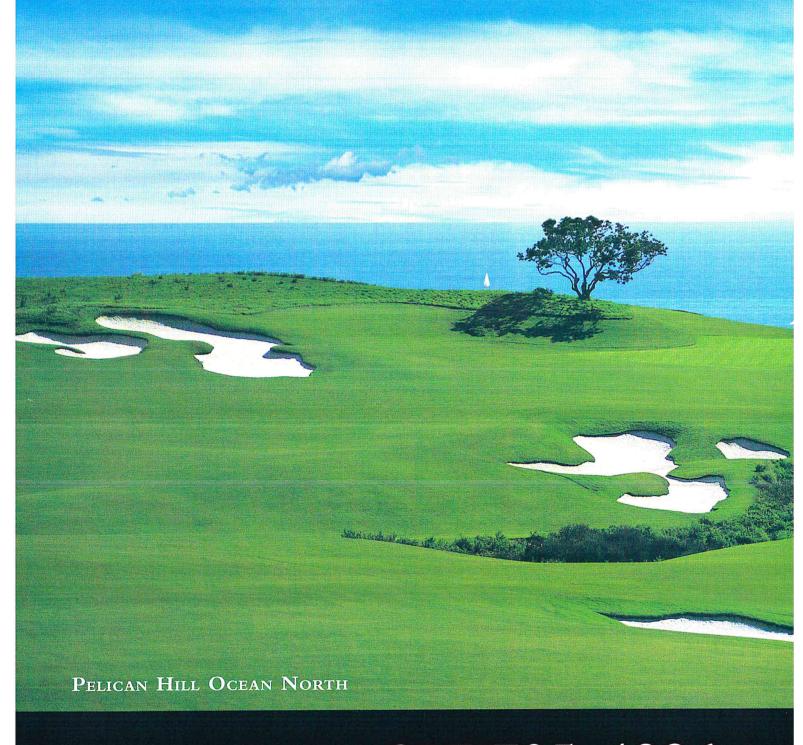
And, if you look closely, you might find an Angel Stadium influence on other Major League ballparks.

Representatives from the Los Angeles Dodgers, Chicago White Sox and Kansas City Royals all toured the stadium before their respective renovation projects.

"You know it's pretty well-received when other ownership groups come through," says Dave Holland, deputy operations manager for Turner Construction, which worked on the remodel in 1997–98. "The Angels proved that for \$100 million, you can get quite an experience out of it." -JC



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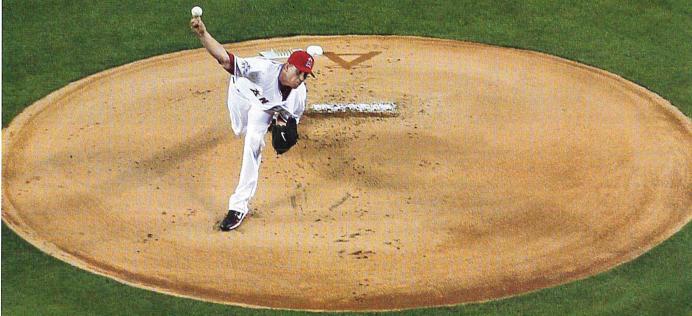






FRONT MAN

ENTERING THE 2010 SEASON, A QUESTION LOOMED OVER THE ANGELS' PITCHING STAFF: WHO WAS GOING TO TAKE CHARGE AS THE ACE? BY BAILEY STEPHENS



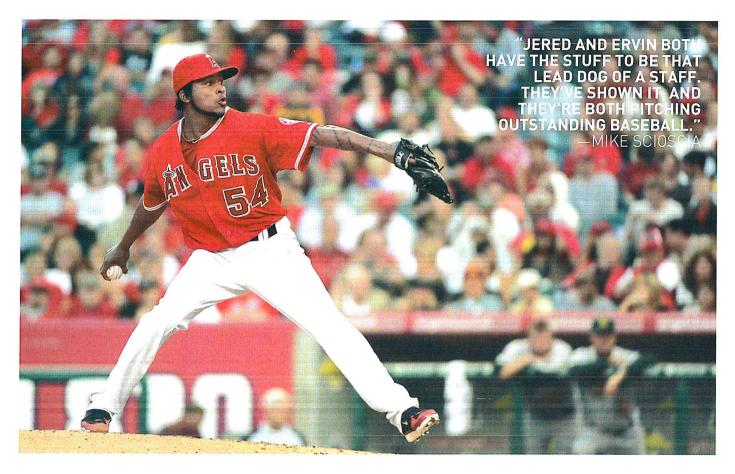
O ONE COULD BLAME THE ANGELS IF THEY were a little unsure about the direction of their pitching staff entering this season.

Manager Mike Scioscia would have to find leadership from somewhere after losing veteran John Lackey; the Halos needed someone to step up and be their ace. Even in a spring filled with optimism and the annual postseason expectations, Scioscia couldn't downplay the importance of having an anchor, someone to steady the staff and be a stopper.

"It definitely has importance, has significance," Scioscia said in April about the value of a front man. "As you get into a pennant race and hopefully the playoffs, there's obviously an influence from a guy who can go on the road and win a big game. John was that pitcher."

Yes, someone had to step up. Would it be Jered Weaver, the 27-year-old hurler who mowed down Boston in the American League Division Series last fall? Or would it be Joe Saunders, a former All-Star who suffered from nagging shoulder issues much of last season? Or maybe Ervin Santana, a pitcher with great potential, but with a history of elbow problems?

Fast forward to the halfway point of this season, and the Angels seemingly have their answer. It has been a group effort, but Weaver has definitively stepped up as the leader, with Santana serving as Robin to his Batman. Through the first week of June, Weaver was among the league leaders in ERA and strikeouts, while Santana nearly topped the charts in total innings pitched. Suffice it to say, the results haven't surprised anyone in Anaheim.



"Jered and Ervin both have the stuff to be that lead dog of a staff," Scioscia says. "They've shown it, and they're both pitching outstanding baseball. You always want that one who can go into an opposing ballpark and shut down a team when you need it. These guys are capable of doing that."

The supporting cast has been solid, as well, something that Scioscia knew would be crucial from Day 1.

"Starting pitching is the foundation of our club," Scioscia says. "We need it, along with the defense that supports it."

Joel Pineiro, Joe Saunders and Scott Kazmir fill out a starting rotation that has the depth to make other teams cringe in a playoff series. In fact, knowing their history, these three guys just as easily

could have taken the lead role of the staff. Pineiro is the elder statesman of the rotation at 31 years old, and has multiple years of postseason experience; the left-handed Saunders has been a beast the past two seasons, winning 17 games in 2008 as an All-Star and earning 16 victories in 2009; and the southpaw Kazmir, once a top-flight prospect who's still very young at age 26, has two All-Star appearances on his resume and was a huge reason why the 2008 Rays made the franchise's first playoff run and reached the World Series. These three have encountered their bumps along the way in the early part of 2010, but they've been respectable, and each gives the rotation depth.

Without question, though, it's been Weaver and Santana who have answered the bell early on. For the latter, it was a matter of overcoming a major injury to become the pitcher he knew he could be. For the former, it was a matter of accepting the role of Top Dog.

Weaver's ascent to ace status always was a question of when, not if. The pitcher, who gained notoriety as an All-American at Long Beach State, flew under no one's radar while winning many prestigious collegiate awards, including the Dick Howser Trophy and the Roger Clemens Award.

The No. 12 overall pick in the 2004 First-Year Player Draft, Weaver climbed quickly through the Angels' system and made

his debut in the Majors in 2006, displacing his own brother, Jeff, in the rotation. But because of a variety of factors, including recurring bouts with biceps tendinitis, it wasn't until 2009 that he finally blossomed into the pitcher many expected for the Halos.

Then, in the wake of injuries and the tragic death of Nick Adenhart last year, the cool Californian began to show his leadership traits, but in his own quiet way. Weaver persevered through the season, making each

With Santana (top) and Weaver at the front of the rotation, the Angels know they have at least two solid guys who can lead by example and shut down the opposition in a big game.



224 ALL-STAR GAME 2010



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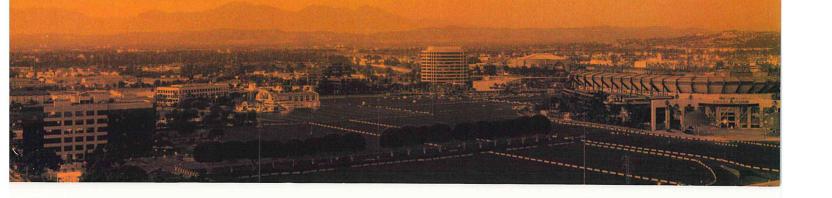
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of his 33 scheduled starts. The result was an impressive 16-8 record. Nevertheless, he was relegated to second fiddle behind Lackey. That all changed when Lackey left for the East Coast via free agency, leaving Weaver primed for a new role - and with some big shoes to fill.

"I've never been a guy who has had that leadership role," Weaver said during Spring Training, having happily deferred to the more extroverted Lackey. "Even in college, I was always a leader by example."

As the 2010 season unfolds, Weaver's leadership has been on display more than ever. While establishing himself as a dominant strikeout pitcher for the first time, he began churning out quality

starts, tossing 10 in his first 12 outings. The unquestioned highlight, though, was his May 7 duel with Seattle Mariners ace Felix Hernandez. On that night, Weaver dazzled, carrying a no-hitter into the seventh before it was broken up by Ken Griffey Jr. Weaver left in the eighth frame, having allowed just two hits. But no-hitter or not, there was zero doubt that it had been a special performance.

"I'd be lying if I said that everyone didn't have their eye on the no-hitter, but no one was consumed with it," Scioscia says. "Weav pitched a terrific game, and I think if he'd gotten through that seventh, there might have been a little more excitement. At that point, we were trying to make sure we were

"STARTING PITCHING IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR CLUB. WE

NEED IT, ALONG WITH THE DEFENSE THAT SUPPORTS IT.'

-MIKE SCIOSCIA

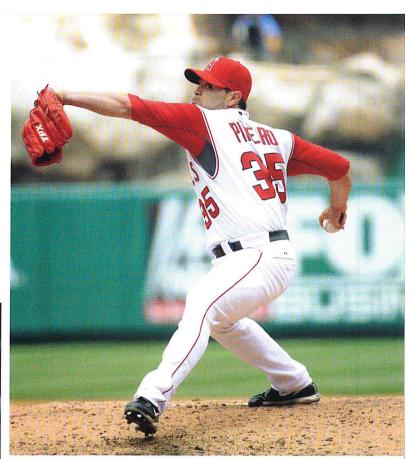
throwing strikes and keeping on top of the game."

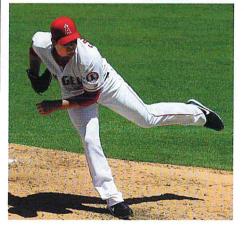
Throwing strikes hasn't been too much of a problem this year for Weaver, who was leading the team in punch-outs by a wide margin three months into the season. But to his coaches and teammates, it's more than just his pure stuff that makes Weaver special to the Halos.

"Weav is such a competitor that even when his stuff isn't quite there, he understands how to pitch," bench coach Ron Roenicke says. "He can change speeds, use his full repertoire. His mental makeup puts him in that ace category."

Born Johan Ramon Santana, the Angels' second in command has been pitching more this season like the other Johan Santana. As another product of the Angels system, Santana, like Weaver, showed flashes of brilliance prior to this season, but his elbow kept him from establishing himself.

Santana picked up 16 wins in 2006, only to stumble in '07 and be returned to Triple-A Salt Lake City. But 2008 was his real coming-out party. He sprinted to an 11-3 record at the All-Star break and finished with 16 wins again.





Clockwise from top: Pineiro, Saunders and Kazmir give the Halos three more starting pitchers who could step up to be an ace on any given day, a built-in support system that their manager does not take for granted.

Last season, Santana's elbow injury forced him to begin the season on the disabled list. A second stint on the DL for right forearm stiffness also cost him time. He made 24 starts, but it was clear that the injury affected his delivery after his return. The results seemed to shake his confidence and the Halos were forced to wonder if that brilliance would return.

"My velocity wasn't the same," Santana says. "I was 89 to 92. When I feel good, I can go from 94, 95, up to 98 sometimes. Big difference." But this season, it was back to work, and if the early results are any indication, Santana has rediscovered his groove.

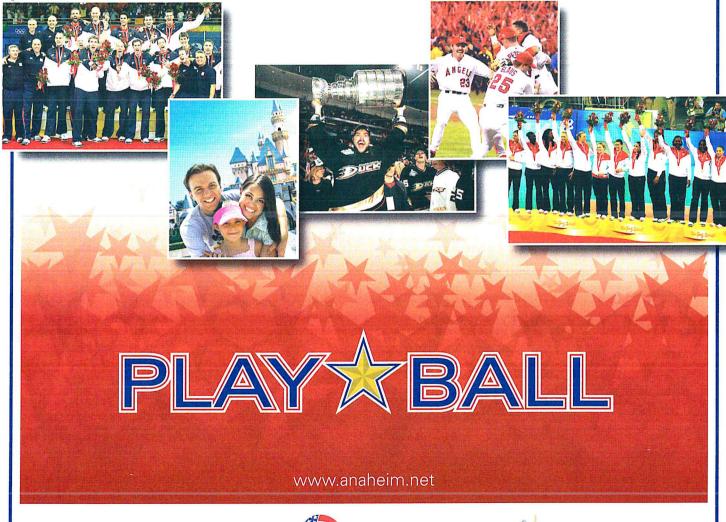
"His confidence is back where it needs to be," Weaver says. "He has learned to pitch and set up hitters better. It's fun to watch when he's on his game. Being able to throw his off-speed stuff for outs early in the count is big for him — and for myself. His stuff has always been electric. That slider of Ervin's right now is probably the best in the game."

And these top dogs may just be the best in the West. •

Bailey Stephens is a reporter for MLB.com.

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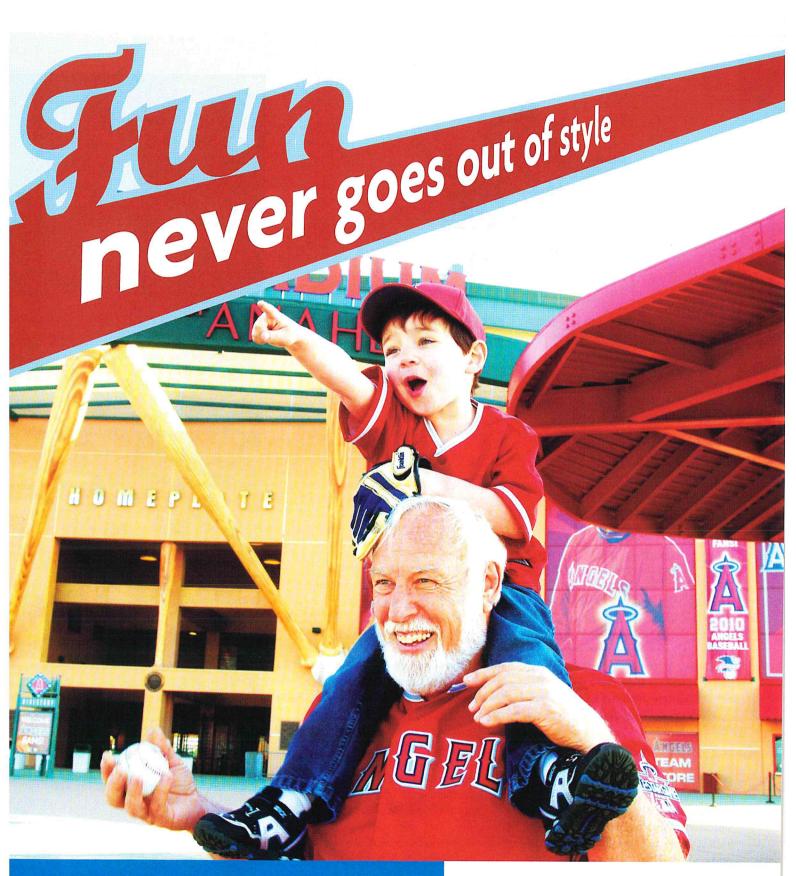












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ABOUT-FACE

THE 2002 ANGELS CHANGED THE COMPLEXION OF THE FRANCHISE, AND WON THE CLUB'S FIRST WORLD SERIES ALONG THE WAY. BY MARK WHICKER

EEKS AFTERWARD, TIM SALMON WOULD STILL WAKE UP SWEATING.

The nightmare was preposterous but it felt real. The Angels weren't the world champions yet. They would have to keep playing.

"It would be Game 8 or Game 9," Salmon says. "I'd wake up and say, 'Wait a minute. We did win. We don't have to do this.' But then it would happen again."

He was not the only one who had trouble grasping it.

A week after Darin Erstad snagged Kenny Lofton's final fly ball in Game 7 and sprinted to the infield to join the victory mosh pit, Garret Anderson and David Eckstein attended a Lakers game to send up the ceremonial jump ball.

On his way off the court, Anderson just shook his head. "I still can't believe we did that," he said.

It took a while for everyone to believe it: Angels, 2002 world champions.

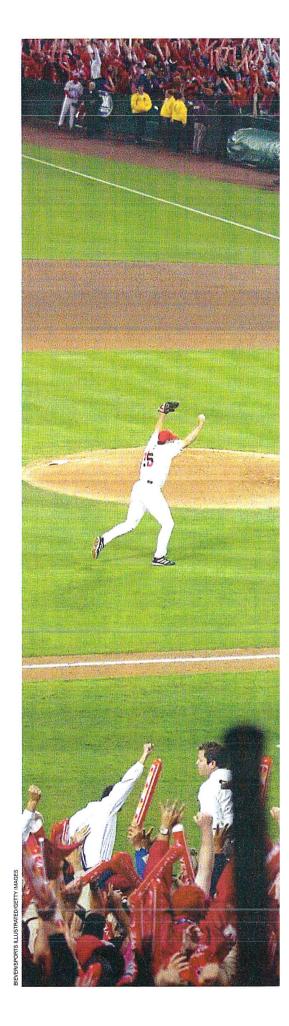
The team had existed for 41 years entering the 2002 campaign. Having at one point played second fiddle to the other Los Angeles team in Dodger Stadium, the Angels finally moved into their own new ballpark in Anaheim in 1966. There they took the name of California, wearing a procession of odd uniforms, including the notorious periwinkle pajamas of the late '90s.

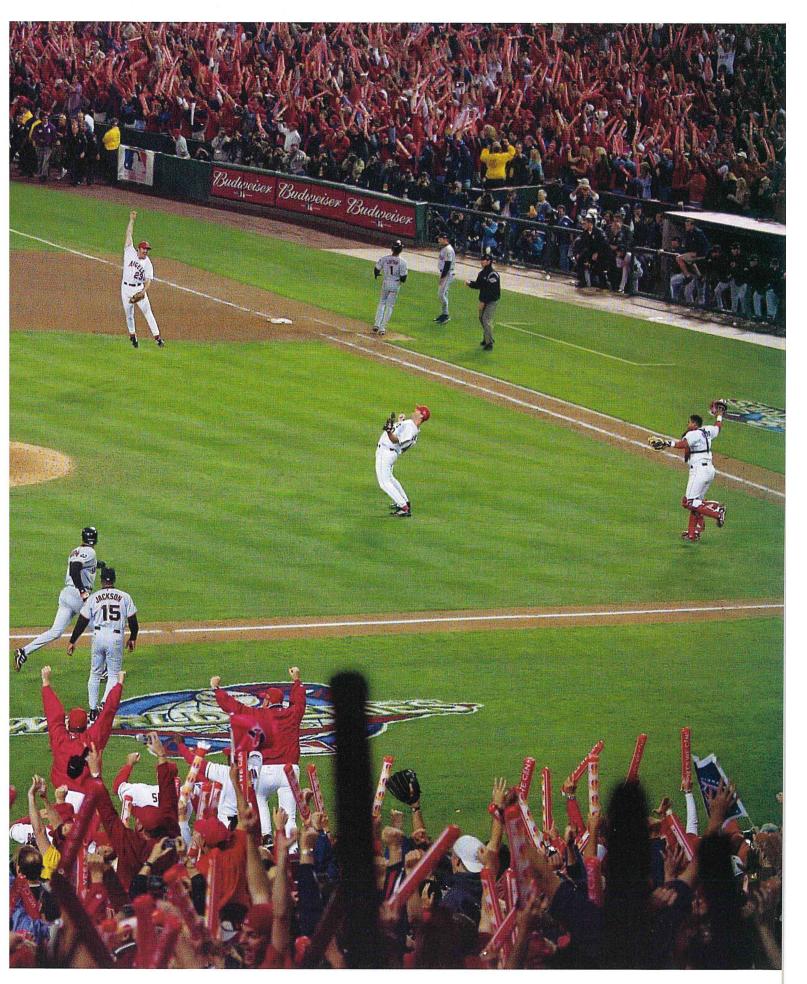
Through the years they had been spendthrift buyers in the free-agent market and had tried various austerity programs. They had blown leads and made pennant rushes too late. They had led a five-game series, 2-0. They had led a seven-game series, 3-1. Yet they were 0-3 in playoff series.

In 1995 they had a 10.5-game lead on Aug. 16 and wound up in a one-game playoff for the AL West crown, losing to Randy Johnson and the Mariners.

They had produced one MVP and one batting champion. Yet, after 2001, they were a serious candidate to lose their very existence through contraction.

And then, like a train careening into town without benefit of a track, the Angels won the World Series in seven games over the Giants. The Angels celebrate after recording the final out of the 2002 World Series for the club's first title.





ALL-STAR GAME 2010 231

The '02 Angels did not change base-ball. But they absolutely transformed their club, and in a way that very few have.

Before 2002, the park was a tranquil place, good for reading, or for spreading out into the adjacent empty seat.

"We'd have 25,000 people there and half of them might be rooting for the other team," Salmon recalls.

DURING THAT OCTOBER IN 2002, AND AT most games since then, Angel Stadium has hummed with the energy of expectation.

The Rally Monkey, who flashes on the screen when the Angels need a run or two, is celebrated like a simian Messiah. The percussionary Thunderstix that gave the backbeat for those playoffs aren't around anymore, but the Angels' seven best atten-

dance years are the ones that followed 2002 — each one saw more than 3 million fans pass through the stadium turnstiles.

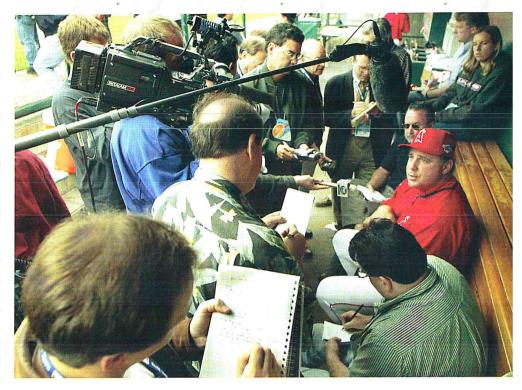
The product itself is different, too. Counting '02, the Angels have been in the playoffs six of eight seasons and have won five postseason series.

There was no forewarning of any of this. The Angels lost 19 of 21 to close out 2001, finishing 75-87. Perhaps handcuffed by a pending ownership change, they did little during the offseason except sign free-agent pitcher Aaron Sele and trade Mo Vaughn to the Mets for pitcher Kevin Appier. They went into 2002 with the same starting lineup that had floundered in previous years, with the exception of new designated hitter Brad Fullmer.

On April 21, Oakland's Greg Myers slammed a three-run homer off closer Troy Percival in the bottom of the ninth. The 6-5 loss dropped the Angels' record to 6-12, and it happened in front of the entire







nation on ESPN's *Sunday Night Baseball*. Then they slogged to Seattle, where Manager Mike Scioscia closed the doors.

A statue of former

owner Gene Autry (center) and fans cheer

on the Angels with their Thunderstix.

"I got the feeling that if we didn't start winning, they were going to start breaking us up," Salmon says.

"That's not really what the meeting was about," Scioscia says. "It was more of a matter of encouraging them. I said, 'There's no cavalry coming in. You are the guys who are gonna get this done.'

Scioscia was a calming

force after a slow start

to the 2002 season.

"But in hindsight, '02 was a critical year. There could have been changes with some key guys."

The Angels lost two in Seattle, then went on an eight-game winning streak in which the Halos scored seven-plus runs in six of those games. They came back down to earth for a few days, then won eight more in a row, scoring eight-plus runs four times.

At the All-Star break the Angels were 51-35. Their homegrown nucleus — Salmon, Erstad, Anderson, Troy Glaus and Bengie Molina — was functioning. First baseman Scott Spiezio kept getting big hits. Eckstein, once a walk-on at the University of Florida, was the leadoff man and shortstop. Adam Kennedy was his double-play partner at second.

Jarrod Washburn was on his way to winning 18 games, and a solid bullpen formed in front of Percival. Most of all, the Angels adopted Scioscia's relentless offensive methods.

"When he came, we were basically a home-runhitting team," Salmon says. "Now we were grinding out at-bats and hitting in situations, going the other way, and really running the bases. It was fun."

The Angels led the AL with a .282 batting average

in '02 and even though they were 11th in home runs, they ranked fourth in runs.

Part of this winning culture derived from a meeting with Disney ownership that

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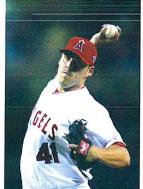
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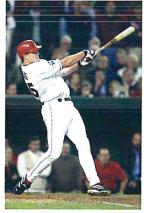
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Clockwise from top left: Lackey pitches in Game 7 of the Series; Glaus hits a game-winning double in Game 6; K-Rod signs autographs; Spiezio hits an RBI single in Game 2; Kennedy hits his third homer of Game 5 in the ALCS; Salmon hits a game-winning homer in Game 2 of the Series.

Scioscia and General Manager Bill Stoneman attended in 2000. While there, they heard one of the marketers wonder how they would sell tickets. Scioscia and Stoneman looked at each other in horror. Stoneman stood up and said that winning led their agenda and it had better lead everybody's.

"We got to Spring Training, saw the talent and said, 'This isn't a rebuilding thing,'" Scioscia says. "We just needed pitching."

But nobody knew that Scioscia would be the dean of AL managers by 2008. When the club was between skippers at the end of '99, pitcher Chuck Finley was asked who might step in.

"How about the Amazing Kreskin?" he replied.

The Angels came pretty close.

"Mike brought an expectation of winning," Percival says. "It was natural for him."

So the Angels were a nice story. Too bad they were stuck in the same division as perennial contenders Oakland and Seattle.

Starting Aug. 13, the A's won 20 straight. They trailed the Mariners by 4.5 games when the streak started and were pacing Seattle by six at the end. But the Angels were still two games back.

The Angels took the AL West lead by a game on Sept. 15. A slight panic attack ensued, as they lost seven of nine before rookie John Lackey won at Texas, 10-5, on Sept. 26. The relieved Angels partied like it was ... well, they had never partied like that. The Halos had won the Wild Card. When they came home they found a strange, loud, red stadium awaiting them.

THE ANGELS DREW THE YANKEES IN THE FIRST ROUND OF THE playoffs, the team that had won the AL pennant every year since 1998. Still, the Yankees were wary.

Derek Jeter was asked what was distinctive about Anaheim's ballpark. "Well," he said, "they've got that damn monkey."

But Jeter didn't know about the Angels' secret ingredient — a little gift from the baseball deities who sometimes look mercifully upon the downtrodden.

Francisco Rodriguez had never been invited to Angels Spring Training. He was a slight, brooding righty from Venezuela who threw high-90s stuff and a slider that had about the same curvature as the Panama coastline. He had finished with the Triple-A playoffs and showed up in the Angels' bullpen in mid-September.

"We're in Oakland and I'm in right field," Salmon says. "Frankie comes over to warm me up between innings. He's throwing like it's the World Series. The ball's moving all over the place. I'm saying, 'Suave, suave. A little softer.' Then we get to the dugout and I'm telling [Erstad], 'Check this guy out.'"

"There were several players who were supposed to be the next closer," Percival says. "Bobby Jenks, Derrick Turnbow ... I never saw it in any of them. Then I saw Frankie and I said, "This guy will be the one."

Soon Scioscia was convening a staff meeting and demanding, "Anybody who doesn't think Francisco Rodriguez should be on the playoff roster, raise your hand." Nobody did.

▲ DELTA

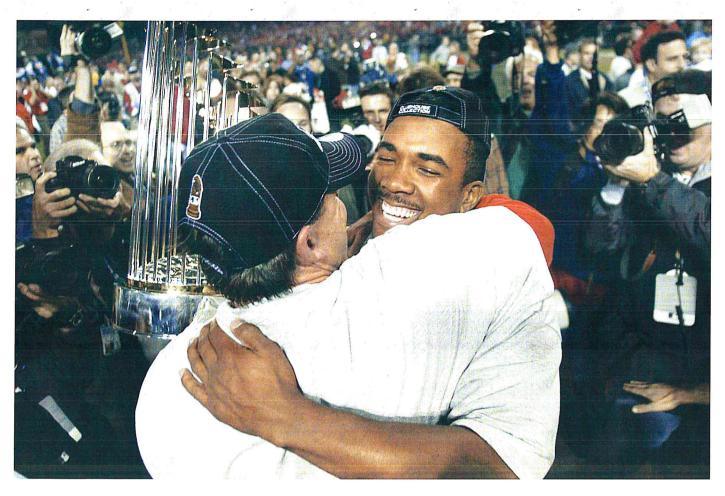
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ABOUT-FACE

Rodriguez pitched 18.2 playoff innings that fall, striking out 28 and giving up 10 hits. A strong bullpen became unbreakable.

The Angels lost Game 1 in each series that year. Bernie Williams hit a three-run bomb off Brendan Donnelly in the eighth inning to beat the Angels in the ALDS opener, leaving Percival in the 'pen with his hands up, wondering why Scioscia didn't call.

So did most of the gathered media, but Scioscia calmly explained his reasoning afterward, and the next day, too.

"I'm as bullheaded as [Scioscia] is," Percival says, "so I asked him that night what the deal was. Nothing against [Donnelly], but I always want the ball. But then it was over and we went on."

The Angels wiped out Yankees leads in the next three games, piled up 26 runs and moved on — and were dealt a four-hit loss by Minnesota's Joe Mays in the opener of the ALCS. That was the Twins' final win. Kennedy slammed three home runs in Game 5 and the Angels vaulted into their first World Series.

San Francisco came in to win Game 1 of the Series in Anaheim and led, 9-7, heading into the bottom of the fifth in Game 2. But the Angels pulled it out, 11-10. A 16-hit attack won Game 3 for the Angels, but the Giants won Games 4 and 5. San Francisco then took a 5-0 lead into the bottom of the 7th of Game 6.

At last the ThunderStix, and the Angels, seemed done. But with one out, Glaus and Fullmer singled. Jack O'Connell, then of the *Hartford Courant*, had begun his game story by discussing the Giants' first world title since 1954. A fellow writer eavesdropped.

"That's a good lead," O'Connell was told. "Don't fall in love with it."

Spiezio was next, facing Felix Rodriguez, who had just relieved Russ Ortiz. On a 3-2 count Spiezio lofted a drive, with backspin, toward right field.

"I was downstairs looking at video of my swing," Salmon says. "Then I heard the yelling."

When the home run cleared, the score was 5-3, and the Angels were closing in.

The franchise awakened with a primal scream.

"But to me the homer by Erstad that led off the next inning was just as big," Percival says. "It got us to within one run."

Veteran Angels Salmon

were especially thrilled

(left) and Anderson

to hoist the trophy.

A meteor of bad vibes landed on the Giants. Salmon and Anderson singled and Glaus doubled for the 6-5 lead that Percival made stand in the Giants' ninth. There would be a Game 7.

Scioscia chose the rookie, Lackey, to pitch on three days' rest. A three-run double by Anderson gave Lackey a 4-1 lead that he took into the sixth, when the relievers took over. That was it. Four World Series victories, all of them in come-from-behind fashion.

Eight years have dispersed the men of '02, and only a handful of them are still in the Majors. Scot Shields, the final man in that bullpen, is the only surviving Angel. Every time the national TV cameras come to Anaheim, the rest can see what they built.

"There aren't many days that go by when I don't think about that team," Salmon says.

"The players who I was happiest for were Tim [Salmon] and Garret [Anderson] and Percy and Erstad, the guys who had been through all those bitter endings," Scioscia adds.

Percival, now a youth coach in Riverside, recently got out the videos to show his travel-ball team how it's done. "And then I sat down and watched them myself," he says. "Pretty cool." ◆

Mark Whicker has been the sports columnist of the Orange County Register in Santa Ana, Calif., since 1987.

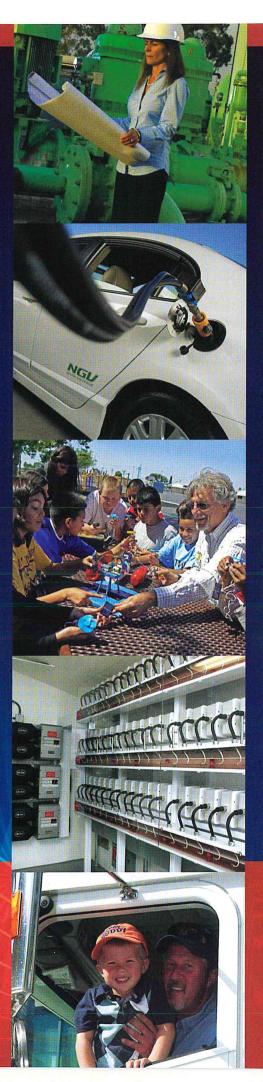
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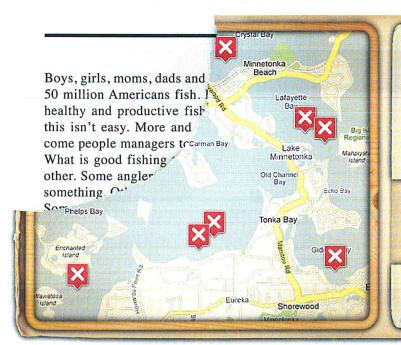
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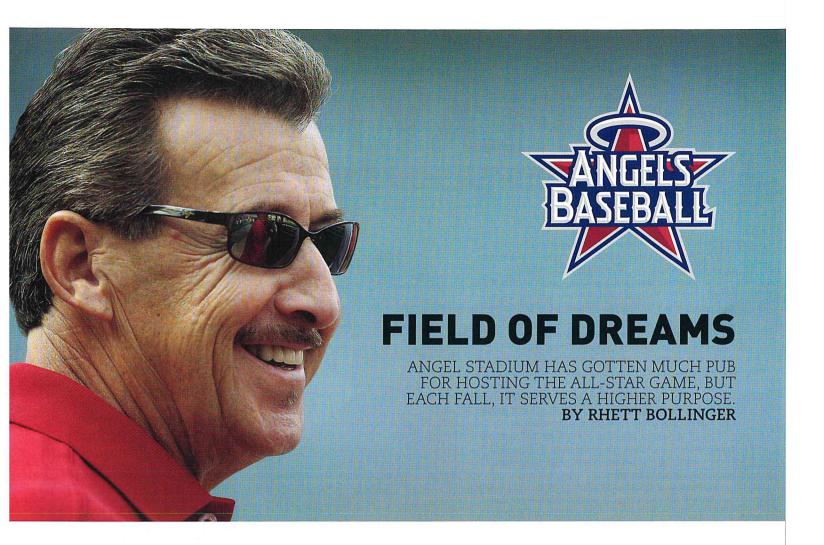
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N BASEBALL, FEW EVENTS ARE BIGGER THAN THE ALL-STAR Game. After all, the Midsummer Classic showcases the best players in the world. Even as the Los Angeles Angels get ready to host the All-Star Game at Angel Stadium for the first time in 21 years, Owner Arte Moreno still can't believe that the illustrious event is in his home park.

"We sort of pinch ourselves," Moreno says. "We get to showcase Southern California. We get to showcase our stadium, our fans, where we live and work."

The game will put the Angels' beautiful stadium on the grandest of stages and will be a special treat for baseball fans from Southern California, as this marks just the fourth time the game has been played in the Los Angeles area.

"It means a lot for us. We call it our baseball experience," Moreno says. "We like our fans wearing our colors and we promote that a lot. We like to see the stadium as a sea of red."

Angel Stadium has hosted many big events in the past, including the 1967 and '89 All-Star Games, numerous postseason contests and even the World Series. So it's fair to say that some of the greatest baseball players in the world have played there. But thanks to the Angels and Moreno, another group of stars gets a chance to play on the field.

For the last four years, Moreno has opened the stadium to more than 600 players from the Little League Challenger Division on the first Saturday after the World Series ends.

It's an amazing opportunity for the Little Leaguers in the Challenger Division to play on the same field as Major League stars. And it's even more special considering the players in the division are children with physical and mental challenges, and

have "buddies" from local Little Leagues to help them participate in the games.

The rules of the game are different than traditional Little League contests, as teams are put together according to players' abilities rather than their age, and can include as many as 15 to 20 players in any of three levels: T-ball, coach pitch or player pitch. The rules also encourage no score keeping, as well as each player getting a chance to bat during the game. But at its heart, it's still baseball - and a whole lot of fun.

"These kids are full of awe stepping in there at the stadium and it makes for a wonderful event," says Dr. Darrell Burnett, a member of the Little League International Board of Directors, who organizes the event.

It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience for everyone who is lucky enough to be involved, and it couldn't be accomplished without the help of the Angels and Moreno, who are making the event a yearly tradition at Angel Stadium. It's just one of many ways in which Moreno has helped Little Leaguers through his role on the Board of Trustees. He has been integral in growing Little League Baseball around the Southern California area by providing funds to local leagues through the Angels Baseball Foundation.

"We always want to take care of the kids — that's what this game of baseball is really all about: kids and family," Moreno says. "The joy on the faces of the Challenger Division kids during the clinic makes it all worthwhile. It is a special event and the Angels are glad to host it." ◆

Rhett Bollinger is a reporter for MLB.com.

ADVERTISING FEATURE



when Troy Tulowitzki takes the field on sunny days, he's sure to apply two things: a dose of sunscreen and eye black with the initials of his late relative.

The Colorado shortstop's cousin, Lexy Winters, died of melanoma in February and prompted Tulowitzki to take part in the Play Sun Smart initiative in his honor.

The American Academy of Dermatology, Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association have joined forces to raise awareness of the importance of skin cancer prevention and detection through Play Sun Smart. Tulowitzki has brought the program to Denver.

"I'm not a professional," Tulowitzki admitted. "I want to learn more. But I feel like my avenue is that if people see that I'm doing this, it might raise awareness.

"My cousin was a huge fan of mine. He followed my career and really helped me in the weight room. And I knew something was seriously wrong when he was missing his trips to the qym."

Not long after doctors discovered melanoma growing on Winters' forehead, the 48-year-old carpenter died. "This happened in months," Tulowitzki said. "Before I knew it, I was attending his funeral in Spring Training."

Since the program began in 1999, more than 21,000 players, trainers, coaches and staff members have been screened for skin cancer, according to the program's website. From those screenings, more than 70 melanoma cases have been detected.

Tulowitzki said players and administrators in the game have become involved in the program that he hopes will take flight. "Commissioner Bud Selig had some skin stuff, so he's huge behind it. He backs it 100 percent," Tulowitzki said. "I know Dustin Pedroia does it as well, because his wife had skin cancer. If you can get one person from every team involved, it can only help."

A version of this text, by Joey Nowak, originally appeared on MLB.com.

"MLB asked me to help spread the word about the dangers of skin cancer, as I have dedicated this season to Lexy Winters — my cousin, friend and mentor — who died from complications from skin cancer. That was a tough way to learn that I need to get a regular body check by a dermatologist, check myself regularly and protect myself with an SPF of at least 30 before going outdoors. I learned to Play Sun Smart so that I can stay



Tulo (right) with Winters.

in the game. No one can compensate for the loss of a loved one, but helping to educate people makes me feel good and would make my cousin proud."

—Troy Tulowitzki



"Major League Baseball makes annual screenings at the ballpark available to all field and front office personnel. Education and awareness of sun safety and skin cancer prevention is a cause that is near and dear to me.

Like all of our national spokespeople — Derek Lowe, Mark Loretta,

Johan Santana, the Pedroia family and, now, Troy Tulowitzki — my own life was touched by skin cancer. We want everyone — especially our fans — to know how important it is to Play Sun Smart at and away from the ballpark."

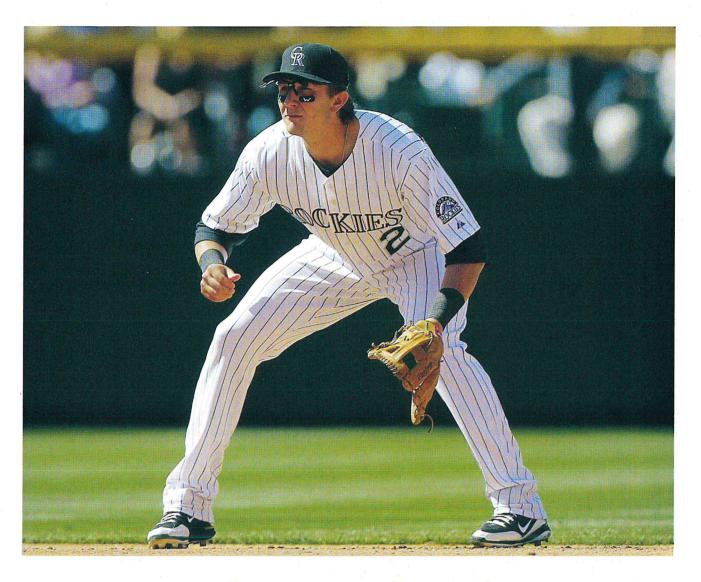
—Commissioner Bud Selia

SUN-SAFETY TIPS

- 1. Before going out in the sun, always apply sunscreen with an SPF of at least 15 that provides broad-spectrum protection from both UVA and UVB rays to all exposed skin.
- 2. Re-apply sunscreen after swimming or sweating
- 3. Seek shade during peak sun hours
- 4. Wear protective clothing, such as long sleeves, pants, sunglasses and a hat.
- Check your skin regularly. If you notice a mole or spot changing, growing or bleeding, see a dermatologist.

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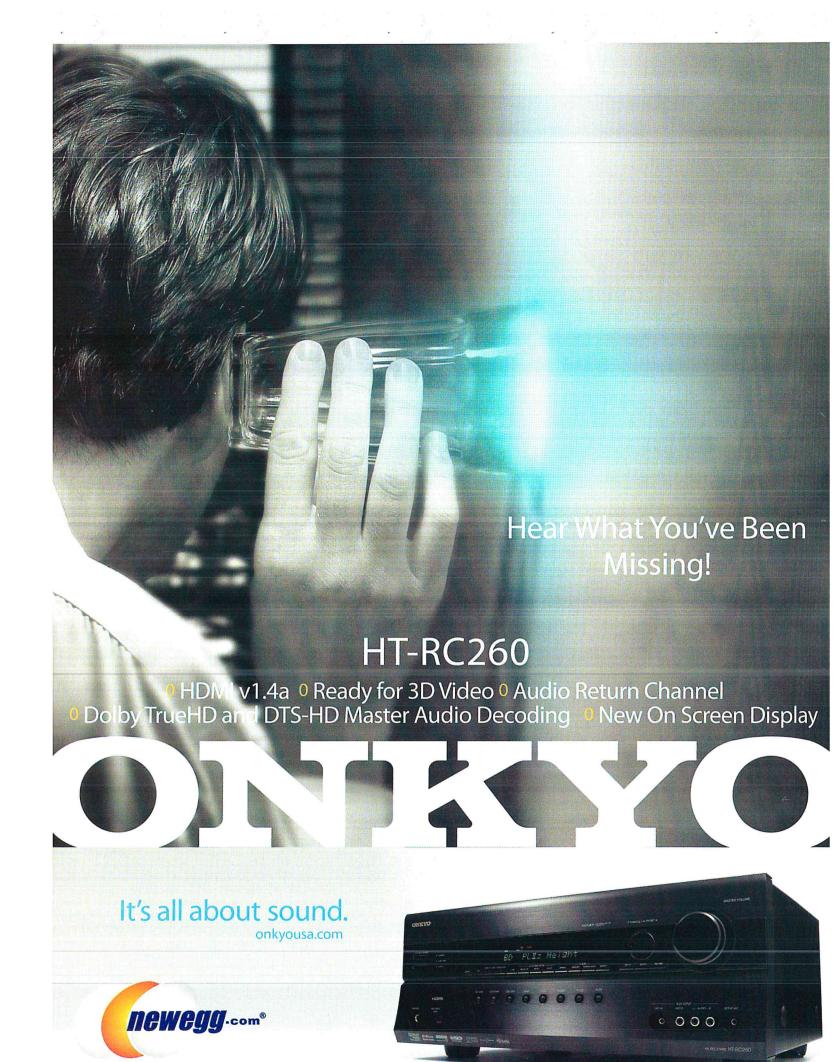
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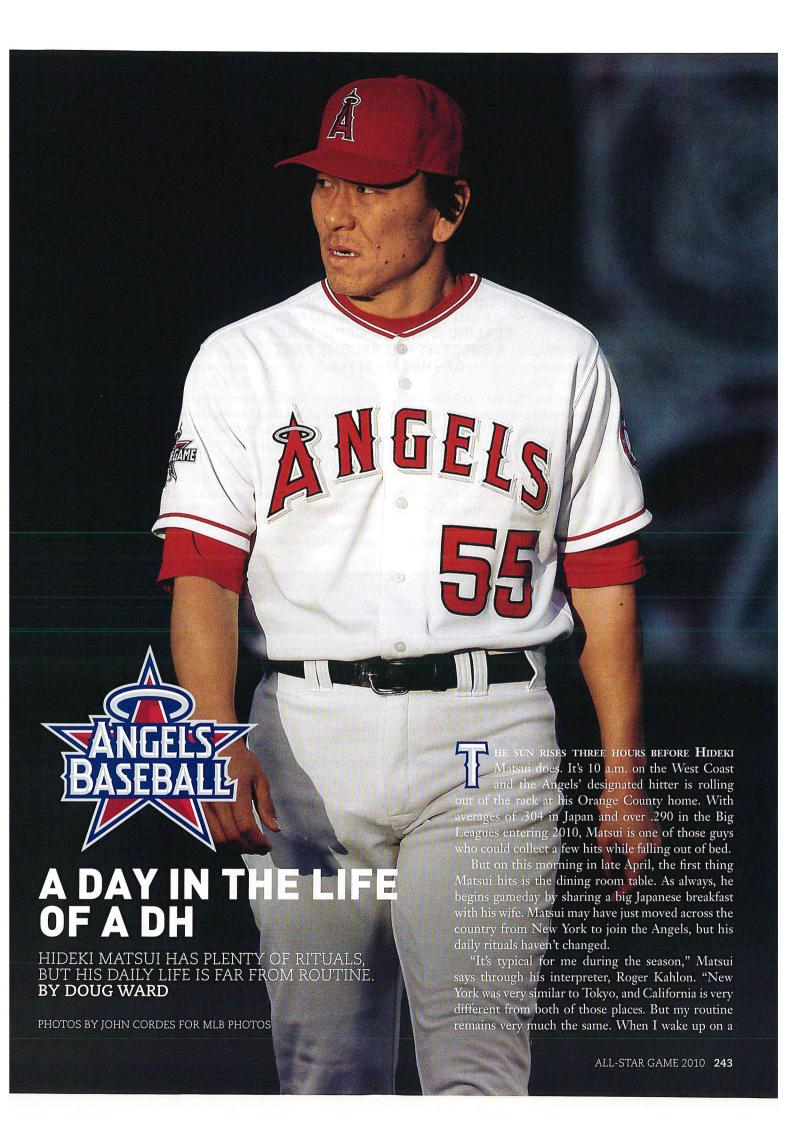












HIDEKI MATSUI

"THE AMOUNT OF ATTENTION

I GET IS REALLY NORMAL TO ME

BECAUSE IT'S BEEN LIKE THIS FOR

ABOUT 20 YEARS NOW. TO ME.

DEALING WITH THE MEDIA IS NOT

A CHORE. IT HAS BECOME PART

OF THE LIFESTYLE."

gameday, the first thing I do is have a really good Japanese breakfast." The breakfast, consisting of miso soup, white rice, baked fish, Japanese pickles, salad, sunny-side-up eggs and green tea, fuels Matsui for what will be a long day. A day that, like most others, will be given to baseball.

"In general during the season I don't have time to do much of anything away from baseball," Matsui says. "Everything revolves

around the game that I'll be playing later that night, so the routine remains pretty much the same. Perhaps after a day game, I may go out to have dinner, but that's about the only deviation from my routine."

He spends the rest of his morning around the house. After seven years in America, Matsui says he no longer gets

homesick for Japan during the season. But the man nicknamed "Godzilla" does do his best to keep tabs on things back home.

"We have one channel that is Japanese TV," Matsui says. "I don't get to watch it that much, but on rare occasions, I will tune in to watch a little news so I can catch up on whatever is happening back home."

IT'S 2 P.M. WHEN MATSUI HOPS IN HIS CAR FOR THE HALF-HOUR commute to Angel Stadium. At 2:30, he parks in the players' lot beyond center field and heads for the home team's clubhouse.

Matsui has wasted no time making himself at home here, and his first month as the team's designated hitter has been a success. A year ago he appeared in 142 games while helping the Yankees to a World Series championship, but did not play a single game in the outfield for the first time in 17 professional seasons (seven in the Major Leagues and 10 with the Yomiuri Giants). That helped ease the transition to his role as the Halos' primary des-

ignated hitter this season.

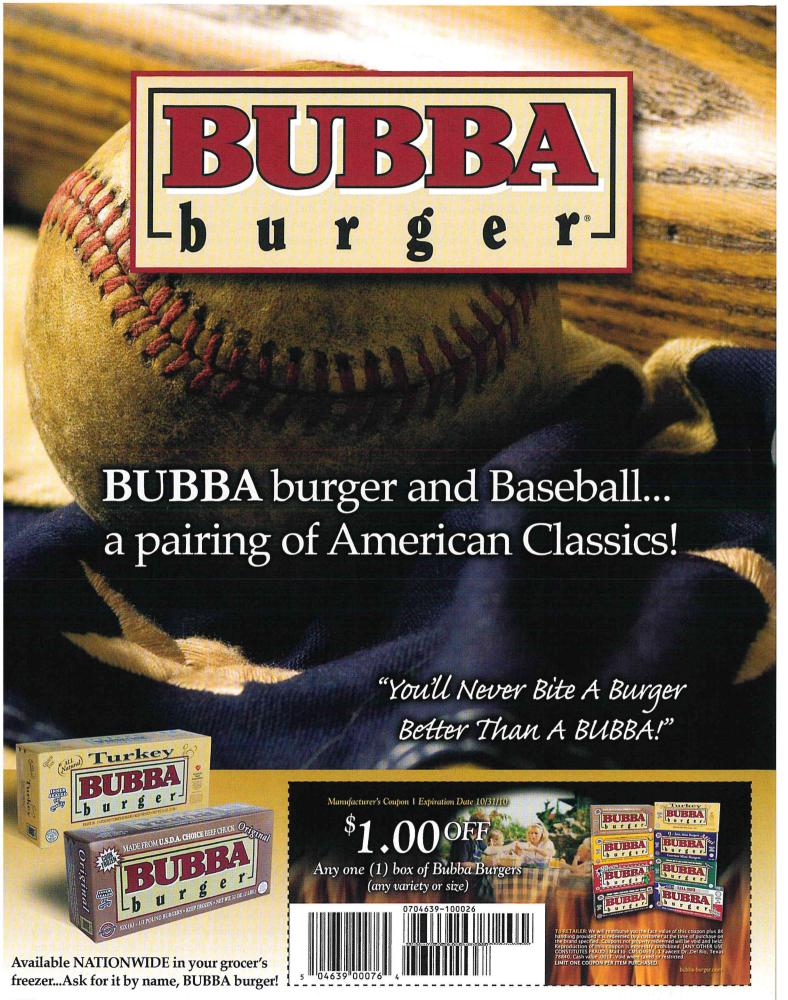
"The most important thing is to make sure you play every game and help your team in whatever way you can," Matsui says. "In my case, I know I'm used primarily in the DH role. It's going to be important to stay healthy so I can play. In addition to that, if I can help the team by playing the outfield,

perhaps once or twice a week, so we can give the other outfielders a rest, I think that would be the most ideal scenario."

When Matsui walks into the clubhouse, he leaves the outside world behind. "Around here," Matsui says, waving a hand across the Angels' spacious clubhouse, "I basically relax for the most part." That relaxation includes the occasional visit to the trainer's room, where he soaks in a hot tub.

Matsui is 36 now and has to treat a tender left knee with respect, which is one of the reasons he's more of a designated hitter and less of an outfielder.







HIDEKI MATSUI

"Since I hurt my knee," Matsui says, "I have to be sure to include getting in the tub and warming up as part of my daily routine." Indeed, after soaking, Matsui hops on a stationary bike to further loosen the knee.

Matsui is almost 5,500 miles from his home town of Neagari, Japan. But his Japanese countrymen can get updates on him with a simple trip to a Tokyo newsstand, by going online or by turning on a television. Virtually every step Matsui takes at the ballpark is documented by a cadre of Japanese journalists. The huge media horde numbers approximately 40 and includes both

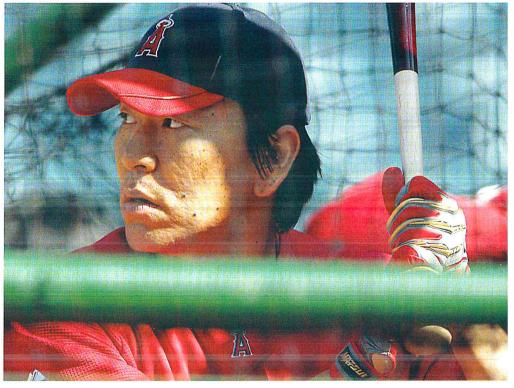
that followed Elvis when he invented the term — and rock and roll itself — ages ago. Matsui says he has grown accustomed to living a public life. "The amount of attention I get," he says, "is really normal to me because it's been like this for about 20 years now. To me, dealing with the media is not a chore. It has become part of the lifestyle. One thing I do get concerned about is inconveniencing my teammates. But that's the only thing I worry about. For me, [talking to the media] is just part of what I do."

It's also part of where Matsui came from. He says he was brought up to be respectful of others and believes that in playing





Clockwise from top: Matsui hangs in the clubhouse with interpreter Kahlon, takes batting practice and signs autographs.



photographers and writers. The contingent is not nearly as concerned with the outcome of the game as it is with Matsui's individual place in the game.

Before Matsui takes the field for batting practice, he conducts a casual but well-attended press conference for the Japanese press corps. The Angels employ a media relations specialist, Isao Hirooka, who is fluent in Japanese and English and whose sole job is to coordinate Matsui's press obligations. When it's time to talk to the English-speaking media, Matsui has Kahlon.

The foreign correspondents surround Matsui, but at no time does he appear uncomfortable. He stands tall, arms folded in front of him, and patiently answers each and every question. When the queries finally taper off 15 minutes later, Matsui looks around the scrum, as if he's disappointed the session has to end.

"The Japanese media are the go-between for my family, relatives and all resident fans in Japan," Matsui explains. "My perspective is that I see it as more of a responsibility. It's part of my job. If they need something from me, I make sure I am available for them."

Matsui has been treated like a rock star in Japan, for good reason. The attention he generates is not unlike the media crush

baseball in America, he is on a mission of sorts to teach the world about the Japanese way of life.

"A very important part of the Japanese culture is being of service to others," he says. "In Japan, it's important to make sure that people are comfortable and happy. Also, because the interest level is so high, I understand that I am sort of a portal for others to understand what Japan is all about. I am able to express what Japan is, and what the Japanese culture is all about. From that sense, I am conscious of the responsibility that comes with playing in the Major Leagues."

AT 4:30, WITH HIS MEDIA OBLIGATIONS FULFILLED, MATSUI focuses his attention on tonight's opponent, the Indians. On his way to the field, he checks the lineup that Angels Manager Mike Scioscia has posted by the door. He sees his name penciled into the clean-up spot as the Angels' designated hitter.

Matsui says he will approach tonight's game in the same way he would if he were playing in the outfield. Pregame stretching is followed by batting practice, where Matsui finds a groove. The sound of his bat pounding the ball echoes through an empty Angel Stadium. This has the makings of a good night for Matsui.



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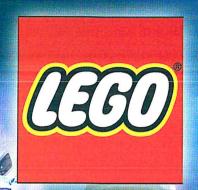
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"WHEN I'M THE DH, THE ONLY THING THAT CHANGES IS WHAT I DO BETWEEN AT-BATS DURING THE GAME. I JUST TRY TO KEEP MOVING AND STAY LOOSE BETWEEN AT-BATS."

An hour later, Matsui and the Angels head back inside the clubhouse. It's an hour-and-a-half before first pitch and Matsui uses that time to relax both his body and mind.

At 7 p.m., Matsui lines up alongside his teammates on the railing of the Angels' dugout for the singing of the national anthem. Soon Angels shortstop Erick Aybar opens the bottom of the first inning with a homer off Cleveland's David Huff to give the Angels a 1-0 lead. Bobby Abreu follows with a single to left, and takes third on Torii Hunter's ensuing double.

"The designated hitter," bellows the Angel Stadium public address announcer, David Courtney, "Hideki Matsui."

The DH strides slowly from the on-deck circle. With men on second and third, it's a chance for Matsui to give the club an early cushion. He lofts a ball to left that Austin Kearns settles under. But it's deep enough to score Abreu, giving Matsui his 12th RBI of the young season and the Angels a 2-0 lead.

As Matsui returns to the dugout, he's met by high-fives and fist-bumps. He settles onto the bench and watches as Juan Rivera extends the lead to 3-0 with an RBI single. Then Matsui retreats to the indoor batting cage, getting ready to do it all over again.

"When I'm the DH," he says, "the only thing that changes is what I do between at-bats during the game. I just try to keep moving and stay loose between at-bats. The idea is to create a routine that will be as close to game situations as possible."

In the cage, Matsui stretches and swings. A machine delivers a pitch and Matsui lines it back up the middle. Two innings later, he's out from under the stands and back in front of them. He flies out to left fielder Austin Kearns again. Then back to the cage to stay loose.

When Matsui steps to the plate in the fifth, the Angels have a 3-1 lead. Huff delivers and Matsui singles to right field. But it's not just another single — it's the 1,000th hit of his Big League career. Matsui stands on first

All the hours of work that Matsui puts in at Angel Stadium's indoor batting cage keep his swinging skills sharp for game time.

HIDEKI MATSUI

base, doffs his cap and acknowledges the 34,837 fans cheering for him. In his next at-bat, in the sixth frame with one out, Matsui flies out to center, moving Hunter from second to third, though Hunter ultimately gets stranded there.

In the bottom of the eighth, Matsui walks to the plate for the last time and strikes out swinging. His final line: 1 for 4 with one sacrifice, one RBI and one milestone in a 5-2 win. That can only mean more face time with the inquiring reporters from Japan.

HIS HIT WILL BE BIG NEWS ACROSS THE PACIFIC SO MATSUI DEALS with another media scrum, this time after the game. Matsui is happy, and that means much of his homeland will be happy, too.

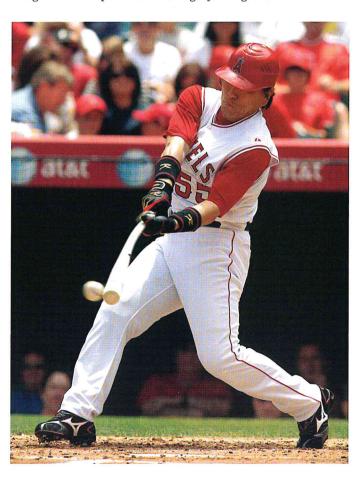
"I have a very deep appreciation for all the fans that continue to watch and cheer for me back home in Japan," he says. "I have a deep sense of gratitude and it helps to motivate me not only to keep playing, but to keep playing hard."

Soon, the Angels' clubhouse starts to thin out. Reporters head back to the press box to write their stories and players go home. Before long, Matsui is headed for the door, too.

"I'll go straight home," says Matsui. "I never take the game home with me or drag anything into the next day," he says. "Whatever happened during the game, I leave it at the ballpark."

Matsui's gameday ends where it began. His head hits the pillow at roughly the same time that news of his milestone hits the evening news in Tokyo. When you're an international rock star, a day in the life goes on long after you've gone to sleep. •

Doug Ward is the publications manager for Angels Baseball.



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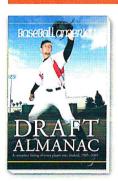
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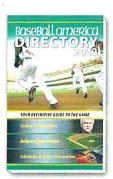
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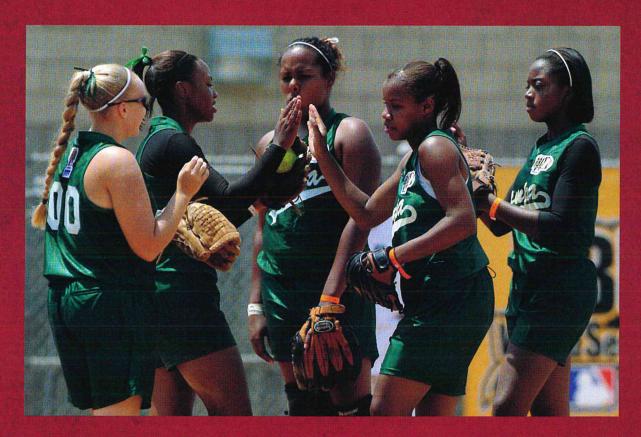


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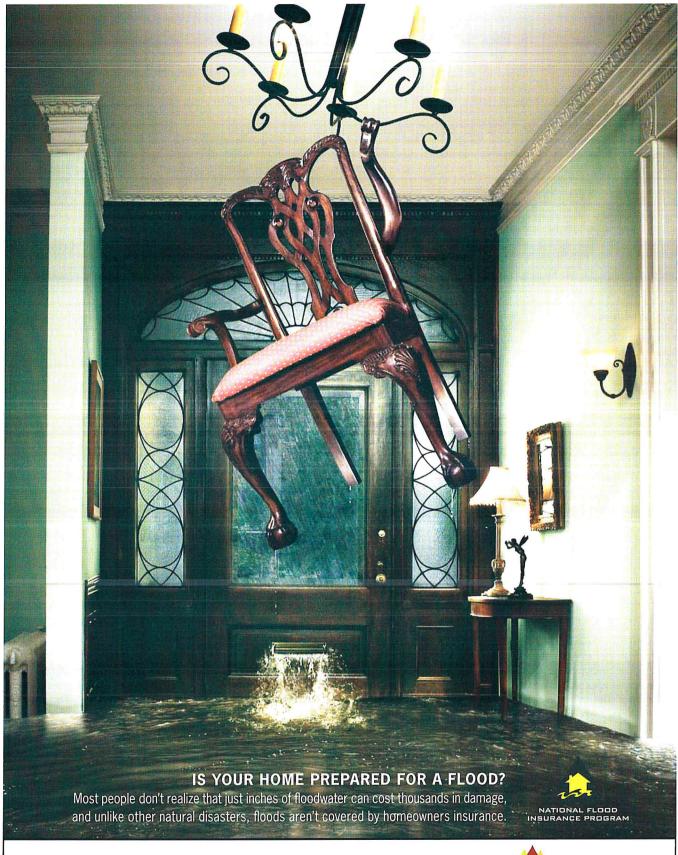
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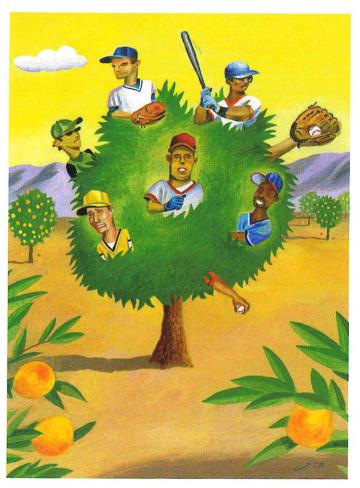


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WE REAP WHAT WE SOW

BASEBALL IS A WAY OF LIFE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, AND THE UNMATCHED CROP OF TALENT FROM THE AREA SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. BY JIM McLAUCHLIN



the game of baseball in and around Cooperstown, N.Y., in 1839. Recent developments in our understanding of the game's early stages have revealed far more complex beginnings. But regardless of how much truth, if any, lies in the Doubleday legend, we do know that baseball's popularity blossomed on the East Coast. And we know that the sport eventually migrated to Southern California, where it soaked up the sun and prospered.

Now, Cooperstown deserves its due. It's home to the Hall of Fame. But there's little question that the modern-day hotbed of baseball is Southern California. Try these figures on for size:

SoCal is home to three Major League teams — the Angels, Dodgers and Padres — plus four Minor League teams and a whopping 15 NCAA Division I baseball programs. Well over 1,000 Big Leaguers were born in the mere *eight counties* that make up Southern California, more than any other entire state barring Pennsylvania, New York and Illinois.

And that player roster is star-studded. Hall of Famers such as Don Drysdale, Eddie Murray, Gary Carter, Duke Snider and Ted Williams are all SoCal-born and bred. Stars of more recent years such as Granada Hills' Garret Anderson — the Angels' all-time leader in hits, runs and RBI — grew up in SoCal. Fourtime All-Star and eight-time Gold Glover Jim Edmonds, of Fullerton, Calif., cut his teeth in the competition of SoCal baseball. As did native of Bellflower, Calif., Trevor Hoffman, who passed the all-time saves record as a San Diego Padre.

Tony Gwynn has a resume that makes him Southern California baseball royalty: He attended the legendary, athlete-rich Long Beach Poly High School, played college ball at San Diego

"I GREW UP AROUND
BASEBALL. IT'S JUST WHAT
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VERY GOOD."
—TONY GWYNN

State, went on to a 20-year Hall of Fame career with the Padres, and now works as the baseball coach for his old college team. Baseball is in his blood, as it is for so many who are brought up in the rich baseball tradition that stretches from Santa Barbara to San Diego.

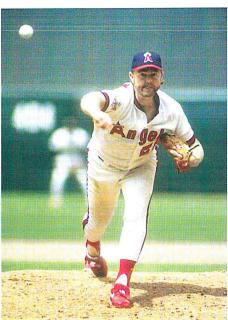
"I grew up around baseball. It's just what you do here," Gwynn says. "I used to play in three summer leagues at a time — Legion ball, Elks league, Kiwanis league, Connie Mack teams, you name it. And you learn very quickly that baseball in Southern California is very competitive. And it's very good."

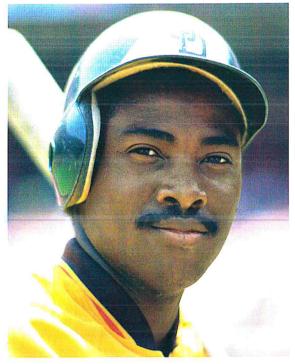
MUCH OF IT IS THE WEATHER. WHEN young athletes in colder climates head inside for hockey and basketball during the winter, it's still baseball season in Southern California. Orioles first baseman Garrett Atkins grew up in Orange, a stone's throw from Anaheim, and rode the SoCal sun to his Major League career. "My dad would throw me tennis balls from 35 to 40 feet away, 150 every day," he remembers. "The more you swing, the better you get and the better your hand-eye coordination gets. And you can do that every day in SoCal, out in the sun. It really helps. It's a big leg up."

Big League teams know it, too. They scour the region's high schools and colleges for budding talent, even setting up "scout leagues" which are coached by members of their staff. Bert Blyleven was born in the Netherlands but moved to Garden Grove — another long foul ball from Angels Stadium — when he was 6

years old. "What really helped me was the scout league," says Blyleven, who went on to collect 287 Major League wins in a 22-year career. "I got an opportunity to work with Jesse Flores, who had pitched in the Mexican leagues, and Ed Roebuck, the former great Dodgers relief pitcher. The chance to work with







Clockwise from top

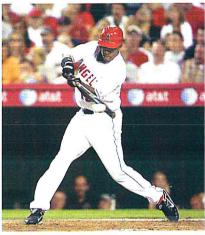
Blyleven, Anderson

products of the rich

and Gwynn are all

pool of talent in Southern California.

left: Williams,



professional talent helped me develop quickly."

Orange County cities such as Orange, Anaheim, Garden Grove and Fullerton are so immersed in baseball that Blyleven even got a baseball education while working a fast

food job in high school. "I worked at the Orange Julius that used to be right at the corner of Harbor and Chapman (in Garden Grove)," he recalls. "Some of the Angels players would come in. I know that I served Rick Reichardt and Jim McGlothlin when they came in to get something to eat after a ballgame one night. I was a little too afraid to ask them for too many baseball tips, but I did ask for an autograph."

The crucible that is Southern California baseball without a doubt prepares players for college and the Bigs. Just ask Evan Longoria, the Rays' All-Star third baseman who went to high school in Bellflower and attended college at Long Beach State. "You're competing against guys who are pretty good all the time," Longoria says. "Not just on the other teams, but your

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own. If you wanted to make that starting nine, you had to work at it. The teams we played against were always good. The competition is tough."

The competition gets even tougher at the college level. Southern Cal has won an unprecedented 12 NCAA baseball championships, 11 of them when the legendary Rod Dedeaux was coach. This year, UCLA advanced to its first college World Series since 1997, defeating cross-town rivals Cal State Fullerton in the Los Angeles Super Regional. But Fullerton has given credibility to lesser-known schools, producing a wealth of baseball

histories. We're all competing against each other every day. The baseball is competitive, and the recruiting is equally competitive. We get the bulk of our players in the backyard, right here in the SoCal area. And schools from all over the country are coming into Southern California to try and take the best players, to get them to go to Texas, Miami, whatever. We compete against national powers for players, then when the season starts, the competition starts all over again on the field."

But Gwynn thinks he has an advantage. "To be honest, the smaller schools are the fastest rising. Kids are starting to recog-

nize they can make a name at Fullerton, UC Irvine and San Diego State — they'd better realize they can do it at San Diego State!" They certainly can. Baseball's newest obsession and 2009's overall No. 1 draft choice, Stephen Strasburg, was born in San Diego, attended high school in the suburbs in Santee and became one of Gwynn's Aztecs.

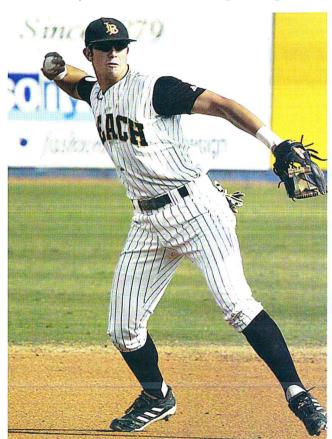
Strasburg debuted amongst much hype and fanfare — and thus far, appears to be every bit as good as advertised. The 21-year-old started off his Big League career with NL Player of the Week honors, going 2-0 with a 2.19 ERA and 22 K's.

BUT OF COURSE, THE BIG SHOW really takes place in the Big Show — the Major Leagues. Los Angeles and surrounding areas have always been baseball-hungry. Before the Majors arrived in California in 1958, the Triple-A Pacific Coast

League was huge in SoCal, with the Los Angeles Angels and Hollywood Stars so popular in the 1950s that its teams often played 170-plus games in a regular season, and stars such as Steve Bilko — a lumbering slugger who tipped the scales at anywhere between 230 and 275 pounds and who is rumored to have hit a 600-foot home run — actually had to take pay *cuts* when they reached the Majors.

So by the time whip-smart Los Angeles City Councilwoman Rosalind Wyman — all of 27 years old at the time — helped persuade Walter O'Malley to move the Dodgers to L.A. in 1958, things were ready to explode. The Dodgers packed a then-record 93,103 fans into the Los Angeles Coliseum in 1959 on Roy Campanella Night. That single-game attendance record stood until the Dodgers went back to the Coliseum to play an *exhibition* game against the Red Sox in 2008 — and smashed the record with 115,300 in attendance.

SoCal fans will show up to support their team, especially when that team competes. It's a tradition. The Dodgers became





talent. As a result, even whistle-stops scarcely known outside of SoCal can be absolute juggernauts on the national baseball scene. The Cal State Fullerton Titans of have never put up a losing season in program history, winning four NCAA championships and sending 44 players to

Longoria (left), attended Long Beach State, and Mark Kotsay was a Cal State Fullerton Titan.

California native

the Major Leagues, including Tim Wallach, Phil Nevin, Mark Kotsay and Ricky Romero.

This year, both Cal State Fullerton and UCLA had nine players selected in Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft — behind only the University of San Diego's 10, which boasted the most selections by California schools. Overall, California was the state most represented in the draft, with a whopping 278 players chosen.

With his current day job, Gwynn now knows that competition all too well. "It's always been this way here," he says. "Southern Cal, UCLA, Cal State Fullerton ... they all have rich baseball



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the first team ever to draw 3 million fans in a season back in 1978. They've now done it the last nine years running as well. The Angels have joined them in the 3-mil club, having done it every year from 2003 to the present.

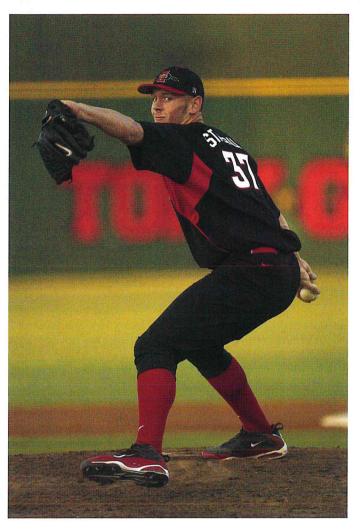
Lou Johnson knows. The former Major League outfielder, who logged two stints with the Angels and one with the Dodgers, still speaks with the twang of his old Kentucky home but has lived in SoCal for 40 years. "I'm a native now," he boasts. "Baseball is big here. Big. It's huge. You don't draw more than 3 million people and not have it be part of people's lives. And the thing is, there's so much for people to do here, and we still draw 6 million to Big League ballparks. There's the Lakers, the beaches, Disneyland, all the movie stars in the world, and baseball is still king."

More recently, it has been the Angels who are pushing Southern California baseball to even higher heights. Arte Moreno bought the franchise in 2003 and immediately lowered ticket and beer prices always a hit with the fans. The only thing fans like more than

that is a winner, and the Angels have delivered. In Moreno's seven years as owner, the Halos have won five AL West crowns and twice reached the American League Championship Series. The Angels used to have 14,000 season-ticket holders; under Moreno's stewardship, that number has swelled to 26,000. Angel Stadium remains one of the most unique places to watch a game in all of the Major Leagues, with constant upgrades that make it

one of the most fan-friendly ballparks in the Bigs.

Johnson now works in the Dodgers' front office, so he bleeds Dodger Blue. But he admits great admiration for his neighbors. "I have nothing but respect for what Mr. Moreno has done there. We used to look at the big thing down in Anaheim being Disneyland," he chuckles. "But as soon as they started putting winners



Strasburg emerged onto the Big baseball roots are in San Diego.

Stage in Washington, but his

"THE THING IS, THERE'S SO MUCH FOR PEOPLE TO DO HERE, AND WE STILL DRAW 6 MILLION TO **BIG LEAGUE BALLPARKS. THERE'S** THE LAKERS, THE BEACHES, DISNEYLAND, ALL THE MOVIE STARS IN THE WORLD, AND BASEBALL IS STILL KING." - LOU JOHNSON

> Johnson, now in the Dodgers' front office, played for both L.A. teams.

on the field, look what happened. The Angels are now the centerpiece of Anaheim. Their management has shown they'll do what it takes to develop the players and put the players on the field to make them a winner."

Blyleven offers similar praise. Although he spent 19 years in other cities during his 22 superb seasons in the Major Leagues, he treasures his stint with the Angels from 1989-92. To this day, he's incapable of referring to the original Los Angeles Angels owner, Gene Autry, as anything other than "Mr. Autry."

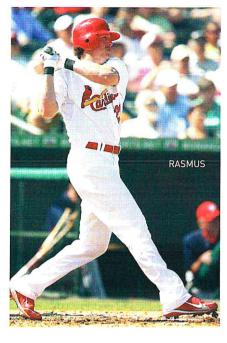
"I enjoyed every minute of playing for Mr. Autry," recalls Blyleven. "When he'd come into the clubhouse, it was great. He was such a classy individual. You could see that he loved the players, and he loved baseball. He was such a wonderful man. And the Angels have maintained that with Arte Moreno. The "Big A" is a beautiful place to watch a ballgame, and [it's] a class organization all the way through."

But more importantly, Blyleven's Southern California roots run deep. He's part of the Minnesota Twins' television broadcast team these days, but says, "I'm still an Angels fan. I grew up there. That never changes."

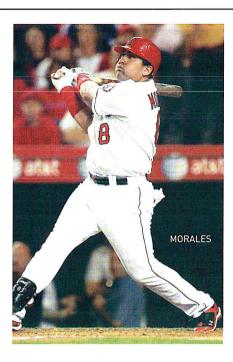
With all due respect to Cooperstown's endless history, SoCal has its own plans for the course of baseball. And it may just start with its own "Epicenter" — the home of the Angels' Class-A Rancho Cucamonga Quakes. •

Jim McLauchlin lives in Los Angeles and writes for Baseball America, Wizard and Playboy.









HERE'S NO BETTER SETTING THAN THE 2010 ALL-Star Game at Angel Stadium to reflect on this season's most outstanding performers thus far. And while baseball is a team sport, Major League Baseball has recognized each league's top player based on unmatched individual performance on a weekly basis for more than 30 years.

That's why Bank of America, the official bank of Major League Baseball, is proud to be the presenting sponsor for the National League and American League Player of the Week Awards.

There's hardly a baseball legend from the past few decades whose name has not appeared on the list over the course of the award's history. Some of the best players in the game today are named below, after having had some truly memorable weeks.

Hometown star first baseman Kendry Morales got off to a hot start for the Angels, picking up where he left off in his breakout 2009 campaign before an injury sidelined him, while the Phillies' Roy Halladay dominated coming out of the gates in his first stint in the NL, highlighted by a perfect game on May 29.

BANK OF AMERICA PRESENTS AL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK									
April 11	Miguel Cabrera	Detroit Tigers	1B	.522	2 HR	8 RBI	1.403 OPS		
April 18	Shin-Soo Choo	Cleveland Indians	RF	.579	3 HR	11 RBI	1.891 OPS		
April 25	Kendry Morales	Los Angeles Angels	1B	.542	3 HR	10 RBI	1.509 OPS		
May 2	Paul Konerko	Chicago White Sox	1B	.316	4 HR	10 RBI	1.462 OPS		
May 9	Dallas Braden	Oakland Athletics	SP	1-1	1.69 ERA	16 IP	9 K		
May 16	Jose Bautista	Toronto Blue Jays	RF	.444	4 HR	8 RBI	1.676 OPS		
May 23	Nelson Cruz	Texas Rangers	RF	.458	2 HR	12 RBI	1.450 OPS		
May 30	Robinson Cano	New York Yankees	2B	.565	1 HR	9 RBI	1.430 OPS		
June 6	Armando Galarraga	Detroit Tigers	SP	1-0	0.00 ERA	9 IP	1 H		
June 13	Josh Hamilton	Texas Rangers	OF	.370	4 HR	13 RBI	1.332 OPS		
	Colby Lewis	Texas Rangers	SP	2-0	15 K	15 IP	1.80 ERA		

BANK OF AMERICA PRESENTS NL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK									
April 11	Roy Halladay	Philadelphia Phillies	SP	2-0	0.56 ERA	16 IP	17 K		
April 18	Ubaldo Jimenez	Colorado Rockies	SP	1-0	0.00 ERA	7 K	0 H		
April 25	Mark Reynolds	Arizona Diamondbacks	3B	.421	3 HR	11 RBI	1.500 OPS		
May 2	David Freese	St. Louis Cardinals	3B	.462	3 HR	11 RBI	1.423 OPS		
May 9	Jayson Werth	Philadelphia Phillies	RF	.360	4 HR	9 RBI	1.407 OPS		
May 16	Martin Prado	Atlanta Braves	2B	.367	3 HR	11 RBI	1.054 OPS		
May 23	Adrian Gonzalez	San Diego Padres	1B	.444	2 HR	9 RBI	1.337 OPS		
May 30	Roy Halladay	Philadelphia Phillies	SP	1-0	0.00 ERA	11 K	0.00 WHIP		
June 6	Colby Rasmus	St. Louis Cardinals	CF	.500	3 HR	9 RBI	1.577 OPS		
June 13	Stephen Strasburg	Washington Nationals	SP	2-0	22 K	12.1 IP	4.4 H/9		

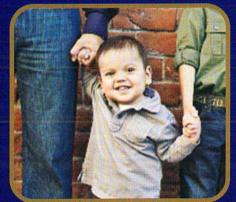


MORE THAN PASAMES

ALEX MONTOYO

ALEX MONTOYO'S FATHER CHARLIE IS A TRIPLE A MANAGER. DUE TO NUMEROUS MEDICAL ISSUES, DOCTORS GAVE ALEX LESS THAN A WEEK TO LIVE AFTER HIS FIRST OPEN HEART SURGERY. HE HAS UNDERGONE MULTIPLE MEDICAL PROCEDURES INCLUDING 2 ADDITIONAL OPEN HEART SURGERIES.

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ABLE TO GET HIM THE NECESSARY
THERAPY AND TRAINING DEVICES AND
HE HAS RECENTLY CELEBRATED HIS
2ND BIRTHDAY.





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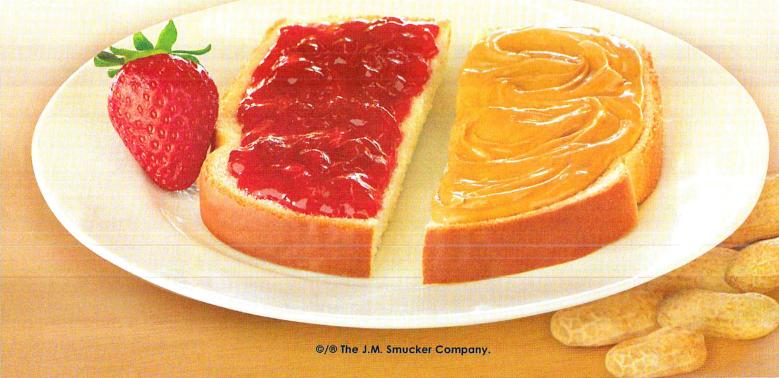
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a complete history of the all-star game

July 6, 1933 Comiskey Park, Chicago AL: 4 NL: 2

"The Game of the Century" premiered with Babe Ruth belting a tworun homer in the third inning. Frankie Frisch answered with a sixth-inning blast of his own for the NL.

July 10, 1934 Polo Grounds, New York AL: 9 NL: 7

Carl Hubbell starred in the loss, fanning future Hall of Famers Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Jimmie Foxx, Al Simmons and Joe Cronin in order.

July 8, 1935 Cleveland Stadium, Cleveland AL: 4 NL: 1

Jimmie Foxx supplied a two-run shot in the first inning and an RBI single in the fifth. Lefty Gomez provided six innings of three-hit work as the AL earned its third straight victory.

July 7, 1936 Braves Field, Boston NL: 4 AL: 3

The Senior Circuit won for the first time, scoring twice in the second and twice more in the fifth, while Dizzy Dean and Carl Hubbell held their AL rivals scoreless through six.

July 7, 1937 Griffith Stadium, Washington AL: 8 NL: 3

The Senior Circuit's Joe Medwick nabbed four hits in the defeat as the Junior Circuit - led by Lou Gehrig's two-run home run and Lefty Gomez's three shutout innings - coasted to a fairly easy victory.

July 6, 1938 Crosley Field, Cincinnati NL: 4 AL: 1

Hometown hero Johnny Vander Meer of the Reds, coming off backto-back no-hitters just a month prior, threw three scoreless innings to pace the NL to its second victory in six tries. He was complemented by Bill Lee and Mace Brown, each of whom also threw three innings, as the trio scattered seven hits and held the AL scoreless until the ninth.

July 11, 1939 Yankee Stadium, New York AL: 3 NL: 1

Manager Joe McCarthy started six of his Yankees and saw them deliver three of the AL's six hits - including a home run by Joe DiMaggio.

July 9, 1940 Sportsman's Park, St. Louis NL: 4 AL: 0

Boston's Max West gave the NL a 3-0 lead in the first with a three-run dinger, and the Senior Circuit's staff blanked the AL, recording the first shutout in All-Star Game history.

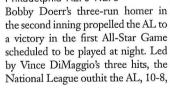
July 8, 1941 Briggs Stadium, Detroit AL: 7 NL: 5

A dramatic two-out, three-run home run in the bottom of the ninth frame by Ted Williams carried the AL to victory. Until Williams' drive, the hero had been the Senior Circuit's Arky Vaughan, who cracked a pair of two-run home runs and singled.

July 6, 1942 Polo Grounds, New York AL: 3 NL: 1

The first wartime contest started nearly two hours late after a blackout test postponed the first pitch. Cleveland's Lou Boudreau crushed Mort Cooper's second pitch of the game for a home run. Tommy Henrich followed that with a double, and Rudy York tagged one over the short rightfield porch to help the AL.

July 13, 1943 Shibe Park, Philadelphia AL: 5 NL: 3



but could manage to score just three runs as the Senior Circuit lost for a disappointing eighth time in 11 Midsummer Classics.

July 11, 1944 Forbes Field, Pittsburgh NL: 7 AL: 1

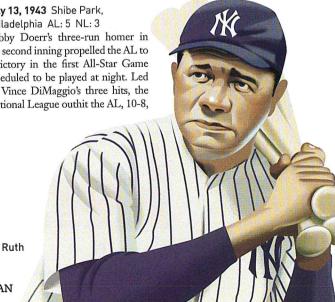
Two Chicago Cubs led the National League to a one-sided victory. Bill "Swish" Nicholson ignited a four-run rally in the fifth inning with a pinchhit double off Tex Hughson. And Phil Cavarretta tied a record by reaching base five times, doing so with a triple, single and three bases on balls - also tving a record.

July 9, 1946 Fenway Park. Boston AL: 12 NL: 0

After a one-year interruption because of wartime travel restrictions, the American League, led by Ted Williams' hitting and Bob Feller's pitching, crushed the National League in the most lopsided game in Midsummer Classic history. Williams, playing in front of his hometown fans, belted two home runs and two singles in the win.

July 8, 1947 Wrigley Field, Chicago AL: 2 NL: 1

The NL held a 1-0 lead through five innings, thanks to a home run by New York Giant Johnny Mize off Frank



ALL-STAR GAME RECORDS

INDIVIDUAL BATTING, **BASERUNNING: GAME**

Most Runs: 4

Ted Williams, AL, July 9, 1946.

Most Runs Batted In: 5 (2 times) Last by Al Rosen, AL, July 13, 1954

Most At-Bats: 7

Willie Jones, NL, July 11, 1950 [14 innings].

Most Hits: 4 (3 times)

Last by Carl Yastrzemski, AL, July 14, 1970 (12 innings).

Most Singles: 3 (10 times) Last by Derek Jeter, AL, July 13, 2004.

Most Doubles: 2 (8 times) Last by Albert Pujols, NL, July 13, 2004.

Most Triples: 2

Rod Carew, AL, July 11, 1978.

Most Home Runs: 2 (5 times) Last by Gary Carter, NL, Aug. 9, 1981 (consecutive at-bats).

Most Total Bases: 10 Ted Williams, AL, July 9, 1946.

Most Walks: 3 (2 times) Last by Phil Cavarretta, NL, July 11, 1944.

Most Times Reaching Base Safely: 5 (4 times)

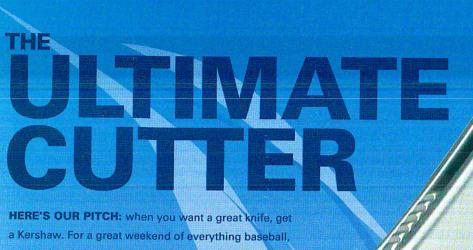
Last by Carl Yastrzemski, AL, July 7, 1967 (1 double, 2 singles, 2 bases on balls).



Most Stolen Bases: 2 (4 times) Last by Kenny Lofton, AL, July 9, 1996.

Most Times Stealing Home: 1 Pie Traynor, NL, July 10, 1934.

Most Times Caught Stealing: 2 Tony Oliva, AL, July 11, 1967 (15 innings).



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"Spec" Shea. But Shea wound up as the winning pitcher when the AL tied it up in the sixth inning, then took the lead in the seventh frame on base knocks by Bobby Doerr and Stan Spence.

July 13, 1948 Sportsman's Park, St. Louis AL: 5 NL: 2

The American League, slowed by a slew of nagging injuries to four of its top stars - Joe DiMaggio, George Kell, Ted Williams, and Hal Newhouser - still managed to overcome a 2-0 deficit and win for the 11th time in 15 All-Star Games. Pitcher Vic Raschi of the AL squad helped his own cause with a two-run bases-loaded single.

July 12, 1949 Ebbets Field. Brooklyn AL: 11 NL: 7

In a high-scoring affair in which 42 players tallied 25 hits, 18 runs and five errors — four by the NL — the AL prevailed for its 12th win in 16 tries. Jackie Robinson, who became the first African-American to play in an All-Star Game, started at second base for the Senior Circuit and also cracked a double. The DiMaggio brothers, the Yankees' Joe and the Red Sox's Dom, combined for four RBI, and Joe DiMaggio's Yankees teammate Vic Raschi hurled three shutout innings.

July 11, 1950 Comiskey Park, Chicago NL: 4 AL: 3 [14 inn.] In the first extra-innings contest in All-Star Game history, the Senior Circuit won a thriller when the Cards' Red Schoendienst smacked a solo shot off Detroit's Ted Gray in the 14th. The American League, which lost Red Sox slugger Ted Williams to an injury, blew a one-run lead in the ninth.

July 12, 1955 County Stadium, Milwaukee NL: 6 AL: 5 (12 inn.) the NL's favor. July 10, 1956 Griffith Stadium, Washington NL: 7 AL: 3 The NL collected 11 hits, including home runs by Willie Mays and Stan Musial, to win for the sixth time in seven games. The game's hero was Cardinals third baseman Ken Boyer, who went 3 for 5 at the plate and turned in three acrobatic defensive plays in the field. Paige

July 10, 1951 Briggs Stadium, Detroit NL: 8 AL: 3

For the first time in history, the National League won a second consecutive All-Star contest. In a showcase of power, the NL's Stan Musial, Bob Elliott, Ralph Kiner and Gil Hodges slugged a team-record four home runs. The American League's Vic Wertz and George Kell homered in front of their home fans.

July 8, 1952 Shibe Park,

Philadelphia NL: 3 AL: 2 (5 inn.) In the only shortened All-Star Game in history, the National League came away with the victory on a home run by Jackie Robinson and a fourth-inning go-ahead homer off the bat of Hank Sauer. Rain ended the game in the fifth inning.

July 14, 1953 Crosley Field. Cincinnati NL: 5 AL: 1

The NL combined a powerful 10hit onslaught with effective pitching to capture its fourth straight All-Star Game. The Cardinals' Enos Slaughter rapped two hits, scored twice and recorded an RBI. Former Negro Leagues legend Satchel Paige, 47 years young, pitched the eighth inning for the AL.

July 13, 1954 Cleveland Stadium, Cleveland AL: 11 NL: 9

The American League belted a then-record 17 hits to snap the National League's four-game winning streak. Despite two home runs by Al Rosen and solo shots by both Larry Doby and Ray Boone, the biggest hit was a bloop single by Nellie Fox in the eighth that gave the AL the victory.

After 3 hours, 17 minutes; 20 strikeouts; and 23 hits; a solo homer by Cardinals slugger Stan Musial on the first pitch in the bottom of the 12th inning ended this marathon in

July 9, 1957 Busch Stadium, St. Louis AL: 6 NL: 5

An avalanche of votes from fans in Cincinnati elected seven Reds to NL starting positions. But Commissioner Ford Frick intervened and named Willie Mays and Hank Aaron to the starting team in addition to the Cardinals' elected Stan Musial, but the Junior Circuit still managed to come away with the victory.

July 8, 1958 Memorial Stadium. Baltimore AL: 4 NL: 3

The Silver Anniversary of the Midsummer Classic featured 13 hits - all singles - as the Junior Circuit won by a run. Singles in the sixth by the AL's Frank Malzone and Gil Mc-Dougald provided the edge.

1959 Game 1: July 7, Forbes Field, Pittsburgh NL: 5 AL: 4 1959 Game 2: August 3, Memorial Coliseum, Los Angeles AL: 5 NL: 3

The All-Star Game became a double feature in 1959, as two games were scheduled during the season to boost the players' pension fund. The NL captured the first contest by a run, but the AL earned the split a month later on the strength of three homers.

1960 Game 1: July 11, Municipal Stadium, Kansas City NL: 5 AL: 3 1960 Game 2: July 13, Yankee Stadium, New York NL: 6 AL: 0 The National League won both games, the only sweep by either team. The Senior Circuit narrowly edged the Junior Circuit in the first game, then won the second contest on three hits by Willie Mays, four home runs and stifling pitching.

1961 Game 1: July 11, Candlestick Park, San Francisco NL: 5 AL: 4 (10 inn.) **1961 Game 2:** July 31, Fenway Park. Boston NL: 1 AL: 1

The NL outhit the AL, 11-4, in the first game, but needed a 10th-inning rally to close out the victory. Rain stopped play after nine innings in the second game, resulting in the firstever All-Star Game tie.

1962 Game 1: July 10, D.C. Stadium, Washington NL: 3 AL: 1 1962 Game 2: July 30, Wrigley Field, Chicago AL: 9 NL: 4 The Senior Circuit grabbed the first game partly due to Roberto Clemente's three hits. In the second contest, thanks to three home runs, the Junior Circuit got its only victory of the 1960s.

ALL-STAR GAME **RECORDS**

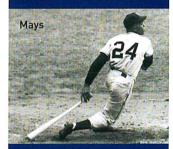
INDIVIDUAL BATTING, BASERUNNING, FIELDING: CAREER

Most Games: 24 Stan Musial, NL, 1943-63 (consecutive games); Willie Mays, NL, 1954-73 (consecutive games): Hank Aaron, NL. 1955-74 (23 consecutive games), AL, 1975 (one game).

Highest Batting Average, Five or More Games: .500 Moises Alou, NL (5 for 10); Charlie Gehringer, AL (10 for 20).

Most At-Bats: 75 Willie Mays, NL (24 games).

Most Hits: 23 Willie Mays, NL (24 games).



Most Runs: 20 Willie Mays, NL (24 games).

Most Doubles: 7 Dave Winfield, NL, AL (12 games).

Most Triples: 3 (2 players) Willie Mays, NL (24 games); Brooks Robinson, AL (18 games).

Most Home Runs: 6 Stan Musial, NL (24 games).

Most Runs Batted In: 12 Ted Williams, AL, (18 games).

Most Consecutive Games Hitting a Home Run: 3 Ralph Kiner, NL.

Most Total Bases: 40 (2 players) Stan Musial, NL (24 games); Willie Mays, NL (24 games).

Most Walks: 11 Ted Williams, AL (18 games).

Most Strikeouts: 17 Mickey Mantle, AL (16 games).

Most Stolen Bases: 6 Willie Mays, NL (24 games).

Most Positions Played: 5 Pete Rose, NL, 2B, LF, RF, 3B, 1B (16 games).

YTEARWYTEAR

July 9, 1963 Cleveland Stadium, Cleveland NL: 5 AL: 3

The National League needed just six hits, all singles, to earn the victory. Giants slugger Willie Mays starred, as the versatile outfielder collected one hit, drove in two runs, scored twice and swiped two bases. The Cardinals' Stan Musial set a record with his 24th appearance in the Midsummer Classic.

July 7, 1964 Shea Stadium, New York NL: 7 AL: 4

The NL came back with four runs in the bottom of the ninth inning to get the win. Willie Mays led off the inning with a walk and stole second base. Orlando Cepeda drove in Mays and went to second on Joe Pepitone's error. After Johnny Edwards walked, Johnny Callison hit a homer to end the contest.

July 13, 1965 Metropolitan

Stadium, Minnesota NL: 6 AL: 5 Juan Marichal faced the minimum nine batters over the first three frames, as the Senior Circuit took a 5-0 advantage. But the AL stormed back to tie it, led by two-run shots from Dick McAuliffe and Harmon Killebrew. Ron Santo's RBI single won it for the NL in the seventh.

July 12, 1966 Busch Stadium, St. Louis NL: 2 AL: 1 (10 inn.)
Underneath a blistering 105-degree sun, nine pitchers locked up in a 1-1 battle that stretched into the 10th inning. The National League prevailed when Dodgers star Maury Wills singled home Tim McCarver with the game-winning run.

July 11, 1967 Anaheim Stadium, California NL: 2 AL: 1 (15 inn.) The National League squeaked by with a 15-inning victory — the longest contest in All-Star Game history. The game's three runs all came via the longball — the first by the NL's Dick Allen, the second by the Junior Circuit's Brooks Robinson, and the game-winner by Tony Perez.

July 9, 1968 Astrodome, Houston NL: 1 AL: 0

True to form in the "Year of the Pitcher," dominant pitching highlighted the first All-Star Game played indoors. The two leagues combined to score just one run, which was scored by the NL in the first frame on a single, an error, a wild pitch and a double play.

July 23, 1969 RFK Stadium, Washington NL: 9 AL: 3 Scheduled AL starter Denny McLain

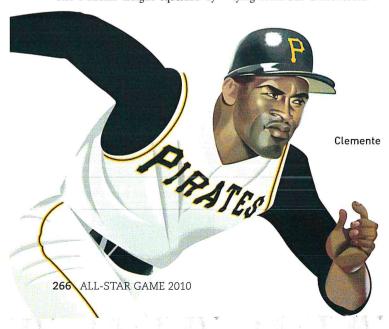
arrived late. By the time he entered the contest in the fourth, the Senior Circuit led, 8-2, behind two homers from Willie McCovey and one from Johnny Bench.

July 14, 1970 Riverfront Stadium, Cincinnati NL: 5 AL: 4 (12 inn.) The National League erupted for

three runs in the ninth inning to force extra frames. In the 12th frame, Pete Rose scored the game-winning run when he jarred the ball loose from catcher Ray Fosse during a memorable collision at the plate.

July 13, 1971 Tiger Stadium, Detroit AL: 6 NL: 4

The AL snapped an eight-game losing streak by belting three two-run homers, including Reggie Jackson's mammoth third-inning home run that traveled an estimated 520 feet. Six different players — all of them future Hall of Famers — homered, tying an All-Star Game record.



July 25, 1972 Fulton County Stadium, Atlanta NL: 4 AL: 3 (10 inn.)

Cookie Rojas's two-run home run gave the American League a 3-2 lead heading into the ninth. But the NL tied things up in the bottom of the frame, and won it in the 10th on an RBI single by Joe Morgan.

July 24, 1973 Royals Stadium, Kansas City NL: 7 AL: 1

Most Valuable Player Bobby Bonds replaced outfielder Billy Williams in the fourth, then smacked a two-run homer in the fifth as the National League cruised to victory.

July 23, 1974 Three Rivers

Stadium, Pittsburgh NL: 7 AL: 2 American League President Lee MacPhail, noting that his league had just one victory over the last 11 All-Star Games, told Dick Williams to play the best talent for as much of the game as he wanted. Yet the NL still prevailed, led by game MVP Steve Garvey (2 for 4).

July 15, 1975 County Stadium, Milwaukee NL: 6 AL: 3

Steve Garvey and Jimmy Wynn both hit home runs in the second inning to give the National League a 2-0 advantage, but Carl Yastrzemski tied it with a three-run blast in the sixth. The NL struck for three runs in the ninth, though, including a bases-loaded, two-run single by co-MVP Bill Madlock.

July 13, 1976 Veterans Stadium, Philadelphia NL: 7 AL: 1

The National League continued its Midsummer Classic dominance with its 13th win in 14 matchups. George Foster and Cesar Cedeno each hit two-run blasts. Fred Lynn's home run in the fourth provided the American League's lone run.

July 19, 1977 Yankee Stadium, New York NL: 7 AL: 5

Joe Morgan led off the game with a homer off Jim Palmer. By the time the first inning ended, the NL had scored four runs and was in control.

July 11, 1978 San Diego

Stadium, San Diego NL: 7 AL: 3 After trailing the AL, 3-0, the National League struck for three runs in the bottom of the third inning when Junior Circuit starting pitcher Jim Palmer issued three consecutive two-out walks. The NL broke the tie with four more off Goose Gossage in the eighth to win once again.

ALL-STAR GAME RECORDS

CLUB BATTING, BASERUNNING: GAME

Most Official At-Bats, Nine-Inning Game, One Club: 44 AL, July 14, 1992.

Most Official At-Bats, Nine-Inning Game, Both Clubs: 83 AL (44), NL (39), July 14, 1992.

Fewest At-Bats, Regulation Game, One Club: 27 NL, July 9, 1968 (eight innings).

Most Runs, Both Clubs: 21 AL (13), NL (8), July 7, 1998.

Most Hits, One Club: 19 (2 times) Last by AL, July 7, 1998.

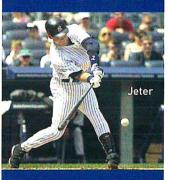
Most Hits, Both Clubs: 31 (3 times) Last by AL [19], NL [12], July 7, 1998.

Fewest Hits, One Club: 2 NL. July 10. 1990.

Most Doubles, Both Clubs: 7 Last by AL (4), NL (3), July 13, 1993.

Most Triples, Both Clubs: 3 AL (2), NL (1), July 11, 1978.

Back-to-Back HR: 5 times Last by Derek Jeter and Magglio Ordonez, AL, July 10, 2001.



Most Home Runs, Both Clubs: 6 (3 times)
Last by AL (3), NL (3), July 13,

Most Home Runs, Inning, Both Clubs: 3 (2 times) Last by AL (2), NL (1), third inning, July 13, 1971.

Most Consecutive Games, One or More Home Runs: 9 NL, 1969-77.

Most Stolen Bases, One Club: 6 (2 times)
Last by AL, July 15, 2008 (15 innings).



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YEARWYEAR

July 17, 1979 Kingdome, Seattle NL: 7 AL: 6

Lee Mazzilli clubbed an oppositefield home run in his first All-Star Game at-bat to tie the score in the eighth. Then, in the ninth inning, Mazzilli drew a bases-loaded walk to force in the winning run for the NL in the 50th All-Star Game.

July 8, 1980 Dodger Stadium, Los Angeles NL: 4 AL: 2

The AL had a comfortable 2-0 lead thanks to Fred Lynn's two-run blast and strong pitching from starter Steve Stone. But Ken Griffey Sr.'s home run off Tommy John in the fifth inning broke up the AL's perfect game and the NL rallied to victory.

August 9, 1981 Cleveland

Stadium, Cleveland NL: 5 AL: 4 The largest crowd in Classic history, more than 72,000 fans saw the NL score all of its runs on homers. Gary Carter hit two, Dave Parker hit one, and Mike Schmidt's two-run homer in the eighth was the game-winner.

July 13, 1982 Olympic Stadium, Montreal NL: 4 AL: 1

This was the first All-Star Game played outside the United States, but the change of venue didn't help the Junior Circuit. Game MVP Dave Concepcion drilled a two-run shot to secure the 11th straight NL win.

July 6, 1983 Comiskey Park, Chicago AL: 13 NL: 3

The American League celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first All-Star Game with a win at the site of the original contest. Fred Lynn's grand slam — the only

such blast in Midsummer Classic history — helped the AL snap an 11-game losing streak.

July 10, 1984 Candlestick Park, San Francisco NL: 3 AL: 1

At age 19, Dwight Gooden became the youngest player ever to compete in an All-Star Game. He teamed up with Fernando Valenzuela to lead the NL to a 12th victory in 13 contests.

July 16, 1985 Metrodome,

Minnesota NL: 6 AL: 1
The AL managed just five singles

The AL managed just five singles and one unearned run as five NL pitchers, including LaMarr Hoyt and Nolan Ryan, served up the heat.

July 15, 1986 Astrodome,

Houston AL: 3 NL: 2

Dodgers ace Fernando Valenzuela fanned five straight batters to tie Carl Hubbell's All-Star Game record. The AL still held on for the victory.

July 14, 1987 Oakland Coliseum, Oakland NL: 2 AL: 0 (13 inn.)

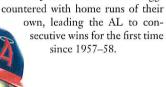
Pitching dominated as the teams battled through 12 scoreless frames. Tim Raines' triple in the 13th scored Ozzie Virgil and Hubie Brooks for a 2-0 National League win.

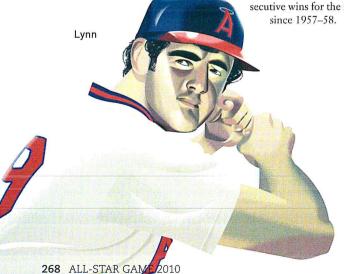
July 12, 1988 Riverfront

Stadium, Cincinnati AL: 2 NL: 1 Terry Steinbach's MVP performance powered the AL back into the win column. In the third inning, the Oakland catcher went deep in his first All-Star Game at-bat, and he drove in the game-winning run in the fourth.

July 11, 1989 Anaheim Stadium, California AL: 5 NL: 3

The NL scored twice in the first, but Bo Jackson and Wade Boggs countered with home runs of their





July 10, 1990 Wrigley Field, Chicago AL: 2 NL: 0

Wrigley Field, Major League Baseball's last bastion of daytime baseball, hosted its third All-Star Game and its first since installing lights. The American League won its third straight Midsummer Classic, as its pitchers surrendered just two hits.

July 9, 1991 SkyDome,

Toronto AL: 4 NL: 2

The National League took an early 1-0 advantage, but Cal Ripken Jr.'s three-run home run in the bottom of the third helped the AL earn the victory in the second All-Star Game ever held outside the United States.

July 14, 1992 Jack Murphy

Stadium, San Diego AL: 13 NL: 6 The AL chased starter Tom Glavine with four runs in the first inning. The Mariners' Ken Griffey Jr. went 3 for 3 with a home run, and his teammates added four runs in the sixth inning and three more in the eighth to complete the rout.

July 13, 1993 Oriole Park at Camden Yards, Baltimore AL: 9 NL: 3

Led by Kirby Puckett's home run and double, the AL roared back from a 2-0 deficit by scoring three runs in both the fifth and sixth frames, while its pitchers held the National League in check the rest of the way.

July 12, 1994 Three Rivers Stadium, Pittsburgh NL: 8 AL: 7 (10 inn.)

The NL snapped a six-game losing streak thanks to a double by Moises Alou in the bottom of the 10th. Fred McGriff homered in the ninth to set the stage for the dramatic finish.

July 11, 1995 The Ballpark in Arlington, Texas NL: 3 AL: 2

The AL took a 2-0 lead on Frank Thomas's two-run shot in the bottom of the fourth inning. But the National Leaguers made the most of their three hits — solo home runs by Mike Piazza, Craig Biggio and Jeff Conine — for the one-run triumph.

July 9, 1996 Veterans Stadium, Philadelphia NL: 6 AL: 0

Nine Senior Circuit hurlers combined for just the seventh shutout in All-Star Game history. Dodgers catcher Mike Piazza blasted a home run and drove in two to earn game MVP honors. Neither team issued a base on balls for the first time in the history of the Midsummer Classic.

ALL-STAR GAME RECORDS

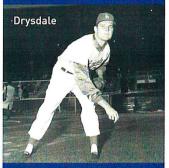
INDIVIDUAL PITCHING

Most Games: 10

Roger Clemens, AL, 1986, 1988, 1991–92, 1997–98, 2001, 2003; NL, 2004–05.

Most Consecutive Games: 6 (2 times)

Last by Early Wynn, AL, 1955–59 (both games in 1959).



Most Games Started: 5 (3 times)

Last by Don Drysdale, NL, 1959 (both games), 1962 (first game), 1964, 1968.

Most Games Finished: 6

Goose Gossage, AL, 1975, 1978, 1980; NL, 1977, 1984-85.

Most Games Won: 3 Lefty Gomez, AL, 1933, 1935,

Most Games Lost: 2 (7 times) Last by John Smoltz, NL, 1989, 2005.

Most Saves: 4

1937.

Mariano Rivera, AL, 1997, 2005, 2006, 2009.

Most Innings Pitched, (career): 19.1 Don Drysdale, NL (eight games).

Most Runs Allowed, Game: 7 Atlee Hammaker, NL, July 6, 198<u>3</u>.

Most Hits Allowed, Game: 9 Tom Glavine, NL, July 14, 1992.

Most HR Allowed, Game: 3 Jim Palmer, AL, July 19, 1977.

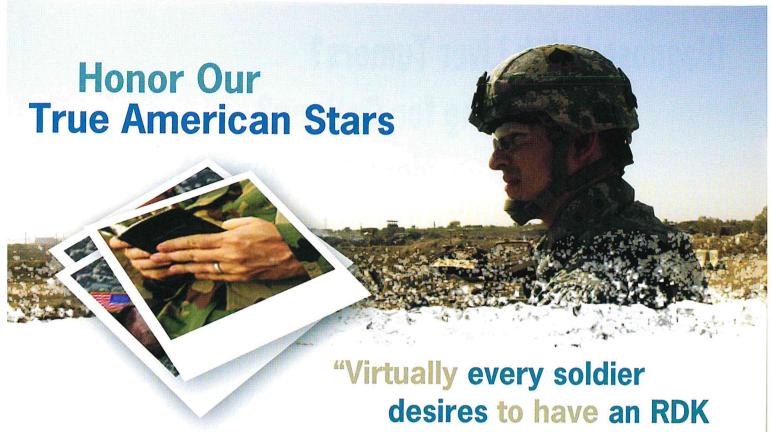
Most Walks, Game: 5

"Wild Bill" Hallahan, NL, July 6, 1933, two innings.

Most Strikeouts, Game: 6 (4 times)

Last by Ferguson Jenkins, NL, July 11, 1967.

Most Strikeouts, Career: 19
Don Drysdale, NL (eight games).



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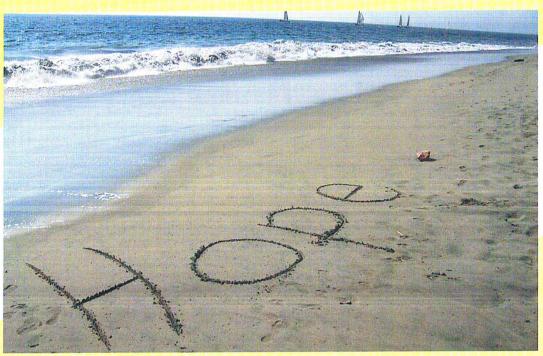


Photo courtesy of Jim and Jackie Sachs.

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YEARbyYEAR

July 8, 1997 Jacobs Field, Cleveland AL: 3 NL: 1

Playing in his first All-Star Game in five seasons, Indians catcher Sandy Alomar Jr. belted a game-deciding home run in the seventh inning in front of a thrilled home crowd. American League pitchers did their part, too, limiting the powerful NL lineup to just three hits.

July 7, 1998 Coors Field, Colorado AL: 13 NL: 8

The first Midsummer Classic at mile-high Coors Field proved to be the highest-scoring All-Star Game ever, even though the teams combined for just three homers. Led by Roberto Alomar, the AL scored at least one run in every inning after the third to grab the win.

July 13, 1999 Fenway Park, Boston AL: 4 NL: 1

Following an emotional pregame ceremony in which Red Sox legend Ted Williams was surrounded by the game's greatest living players, hometown starter Pedro Martinez dominated, striking out five of the first six batters he faced. The American League's six hits were enough to drive in four runs and the Junior Circuit's stingy pitching led the league to its third straight win.

July 11, 2000 Turner Field, Atlanta AL: 6 NL: 3

Derek Jeter hit safely in each of his three at-bats to become the first New York Yankee to capture the game's MVP Award. Chipper Jones homered in front of his home fans, but the National League couldn't muster a rally against the AL's eight pitchers, led by winner James Baldwin.

July 10, 2001 Safeco Field, Seattle AL: 4 NL: 1

In the first at-bat of his 19th and final All-Star Game, Cal Ripken Jr. slammed the first pitch he saw for a home run. Derek Jeter and Magglio Ordonez hit back-to-back homers in the sixth to help lead the AL to its fifth straight victory. Ripken and Tony Gwynn were honored during a midgame ceremony.

July 9, 2002 Miller Park.

Milwaukee AL: 7 NL: 7 (11 inn.) The 73rd All-Star Game became the second to end in a tie when both leagues ran out of pitchers in the 11th inning. Torii Hunter's leaping-over-the-wall grab of a would-be Barry Bonds home run was the highlight of the night. But Bonds

got revenge in his next at-bat with a homer off Roy Halladay.

July 15, 2003 U.S. Cellular Field, Chicago AL: 7 NL: 6

In the first All-Star Game with more than pride on the line, a pinch-hit home run off Eric Gagne by Texas's Hank Blalock in the bottom of the eighth inning gave the American League the win — and home-field advantage in the 2003 World Series.

July 13, 2004 Minute Maid Park, Houston AL: 9 NL: 4

Much was made of hometown hero Roger Clemens' start for the NL, but the buzz was quickly killed in the first inning when the Rocket gave up six runs, including a two-run homer to Manny Ramirez and a three-run blast off the bat of MVP Alfonso Soriano. Derek Jeter went 3 for 3 to raise his career Midsummer Classic batting average to a record .700.

July 12, 2005 Comerica Park, Detroit AL: 7 NL: 5

The 76th All-Star Game had a global feel to it, as plans for the inaugural World Baseball Classic were unveiled. A patriotic Home Run Derby followed, which was dominated by Venezuela's Bobby Abreu. Fittingly, the American League's diverse lineup stole the show. Miguel Tejada earned game MVP honors for his homer and stellar glovework, while Ichiro Suzuki drove in two runs in the victory. Mariano Rivera collected his first All-Star Game save since 1997.

July 11, 2006 PNC Park, Pittsburgh AL: 3 NL: 2

One day, Trevor Hoffman will take his rightful place in the Hall of Fame, but this was not his night. Summoned to secure a 2-1 lead, Hoffman recorded two quick outs in the top of the ninth frame before allowing back-to-back hits. With runners on second and third base, Hoffman got ahead of Michael Young, 0-2, but the Rangers' second baseman lined a two-run triple to extend the AL's unbeaten streak to 10 games.

July 10, 2007 AT&T Park, San Francisco AL: 5 NL: 4

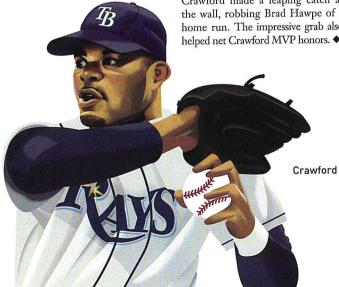
Motivated to end the AL's run of 10 straight years without a loss, the NL got on the board first when Ken Griffey Jr. knocked in a run. But the eventual All-Star Game MVP, Ichiro Suzuki, put the Junior Circuit ahead to stay in the fifth inning with the first ever inside-the-park home run in Midsummer Classic history.

July 15, 2008 Yankee Stadium, New York AL: 4 NL: 3 (15 inn.)

The All-Stars gave the old Yankee Stadium a grand sendoff, treating fans to another nailbiter, but with the usual result; the AL edged the Senior Circuit in the longest All-Star Game ever. With the game already lasting past 1 a.m., the AL's Michael Young lifted a fly ball to right fielder Corey Hart. Justin Morneau tagged up from third base, however, and just slid past catcher Brian McCann.

July 14, 2009 Busch Stadium, St. Louis AL: 4, NL: 3

With yet another victory, the AL established a new record with its 13th straight Midsummer Classic without a loss. Adam Jones and Curtis Granderson, each a first-time All-Star, teamed up to score the winning run for the AL. After Granderson tripled in the top of the eighth with the score tied at 3-3, Jones hit a sacrifice fly to plate him. An inning earlier, the AL's Carl Crawford made a leaping catch at the wall, robbing Brad Hawpe of a home run. The impressive grab also helped net Crawford MVP honors. ◆



ALL-STAR GAME RECORDS

MISCELLANEOUS

Overall Wins: NL 40, AL 38, 2 ties.

Overall Score: AL 335, NL 333.

Longest Unbeaten Streak: 13 AL. 1997-2009.

Greatest Margin of Victory: 12 AL 12, NL 0, July 9, 1946.

Highest Attendance: 72,086 Cleveland Stadium, Cleveland, Aug. 9, 1981.

Most Times as Host City: 8 New York.

Most Times as Host Club: 5 Indians; Pirates.

Most Times MVP: 2 (4 times)
Last by Cal Ripken Jr., AL, 1991,

Most Times as Manager: 10 Casey Stengel, AL, (won four, lost six), 1950-54, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959 (both All-Star Games).

Most Players Used, Both Clubs: 63 AL [32], NL [31], July 15, 2008 [15 innings].

Fewest Players Used, Both Clubs: 27 AL (15), NL (12), July 6, 1938.

Most Pitchers Used, Both Clubs:

AL (12), NL (11), July 15, 2008 (15 innings).

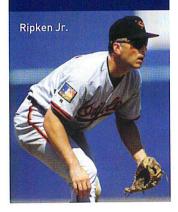
Youngest Player:

19 years, 7 months, 24 days Dwight Gooden, NL, 1984.

Oldest Player:

47 years, 7 days Satchel Paige, AL, 1953.

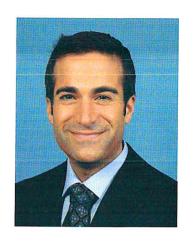
Most Times Elected to Start (Ballots Since 1970): 18 Cal Ripken Jr., AL, 1984-2001.



DRESSED FOR SUCCESS

RNGELS

They say the clothes don't make the man, but in the Angels' case, maybe they do. BY MATT VASGERSIAN



MONG THE MANY REASONS BASEBALL'S ALL-STAR Game is more fun to watch than that of any other sport is the longstanding practice of each player representing his city by wearing his team's uniform. And when the representative Angels take the field in their home ballpark for the 2010 Midsummer Classic, they'll be wearing a uniform whose evolution has mirrored

that of a franchise that has become one of the premier brands in the game.

My earliest memories of Angels games came some years after the team's birth in 1961, as my dad would take me to see Nolan Ryan and Frank Tanana pitch in the early 1970s. They wore the standard fare of the times: white home button downs and a blue cap featuring the halo-topped "A."

As a newer team that had a National League neighbor to the immediate north, the franchise hadn't really established an identity in those days, and even with the coming additions of players like Bobby Grich and Don Baylor, these were less-than-brilliant teams wearing less-than-brilliant uniforms.

Former owner Gene Autry's solid free-agent constructs of the 1980s wore the pullover tops and elastic waistband pants whose most notable moment came with Reggie Jackson's "must kill

the queen" appearance in *The Naked Gun*. Yet despite Brian Downing filling out the sleeve and Jackson donning the cap, these teams suffered only heartache, losing a 2-games-to-0 lead in the 1982 ALCS and a 3-games-to-1 lead in the 1986 version.

Over the ensuing years there seemed to be as many uniform adjustments as there were roster changes, each eliciting nothing more stirring than a polite golf clap.

In the early '90s, All-Stars Chili Davis and Mark Langston wore old-timey button downs with "CA" logoed caps for middle-of-the-pack Angels teams that hovered around .500. Again — decent uniforms, decent teams. Getting warmer.

Franchise great Tim Salmon was among those who endured the "periwinkle blue pinstripes" that made the link between the Angels and Disneyland so comically out-of-sync with the club's attempt at a winning image. They were quickly abandoned.

That last look represented the darkness before dawn, as the landscape in Anaheim would change dramatically in the early part of this decade. Mike Scioscia arrived in 2000, and a new

ownership group came shortly thereafter. In 2002 a world champion emerged and a Rally Monkey became more popular than the Mouse who used to rule these parts.

More recently, there have been division titles in five of the last six seasons and packed houses throughout the summers. And while all this has taken place, All-Star names from Darin Erstad and Troy Percival to Torii Hunter and Ervin Santana have headlined in the Angels' current shade of red and a halo-topped "A" - a look that seems to capture everything good about the past 50 years while weeding out every booted ball and extra-innings loss. These Angels indeed "Paint the Town Red," as an advertising slogan once proclaimed throughout Southern California.

Some might call it coincidence that the Angels' success has come in what many feel is the team's cleanest look.

The pundit may claim any uniform would look good on the recent vintage Halos. I submit otherwise. And while I'm not sure if the uniform came before the success or vice-versa, I do know this: You never saw periwinkle pinstripes in the World Series.

Just think about how many rings Chuck Finley would have won if he'd only worn red. ◆

Matt Vasgersian is a host on MLB Network and can regularly be seen on MLB Tonight and Thursday Night Baseball. He is a Southern Cal graduate and still considers the region home.

Page numbers not required: 273 (Holiday Inn), and 274 (Nike). This is the end.